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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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A. H. Dole, Nebr.

Make yourself a simple to operate, inexpensive to construct, humidifier for your greenhouse. It is easy to do.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

The Members' Handbook will be thrown as of June 30th.

Please send in corrections as soon as possible. Every effort is being made to have this, our third annual list, as accurate as is possible. Your assistance will be appreciated.

Wasn't the Dayton Meeting Wonderful?

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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REPORT FROM DAYTON

Another convention has come and gone -- to you who were not there may we say we missed you. You who were there know it was a magnificent convention -- the "best we've ever had" was the comment heard over and over.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank everyone who had a part in it, the local people who worked untiringly, the program committee for that marvelous program, all the exhibitors because we are realizing more and more that the exhibit is a very popular and important part of our annual meeting and all of you who were the audience because you were so appreciative and generous with your praise and approval.

Behind the scenes your Board worked too and I mean really worked and worked, long, long hours. Many points and questions were decided. We are such an infant, in years, as organizations go. We have no precedents to follow and every step we take has to be weighed, gauged and judged. Besides, there is so much to do -- we have grown so fast it is phenomenal really, in the realm of floriculture. Then too, a year in our young life -- I mean the Society's -- is a long time and we get together only once a year.

I also want to thank, and most sincerely, the members of the Board for their interest, their honest courage, and willingness to work -- for work they did. The Board was in session for over twelve hours, sandwiched in between and after meetings.

I believe we all feel pretty well about it though, for a great deal was accomplished and I will attempt to list some of the things that were acted upon. I can list here only a few of the more important matters -- a full report of the meeting will come in our Secretary's report in the September Magazine and when you read it I hope you will agree that we are moving ahead rapidly.

A plan for affiliation of local clubs was worked out and adopted. Among the benefits of affiliation to local clubs is making available to them for their Annual Saintpaulia (Mr. Free please take notice) Show, for certain specified classes, awards from the Society. One of the requirements for local clubs to be eligible for affiliation is, that at least 25% of their membership must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. There are other benefits and other minor requirements. This, however, will be explained more fully in the September Magazine.

The Board sanctioned a plan of awards for exhibits -- both commercial and amateur -- at our annual meetings.

The report of the Judging School Committee was accepted -- this report will appear in our September Magazine. It was decided also to make training and qualifying courses for judges available in various sections of the country.

A seal for our Society was adopted and in due time will appear in the appropriate places -- award ribbons, membership cards, and even stationery.

The 'piece de resistance', I'm sure you will all agree, was making available to the Scientific Committee for continuation of our fine research work, a grant of up to TWO THOUSAND ($2000.00) DOLLARS. You who heard Mr. Stimson at Dayton know how beneficial to all of us is this research work, (Mr. Stimson's reports will appear in the Magazine) and the Board feels that this work should be continued.

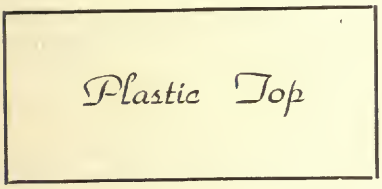
This report in order to make the June Magazine is written at the end of a glorious but demanding convention and is sketchy -- only the highlights were touched -- but more later.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

East .... Sheltered by shrubbery bed with filtered sunlight and some overhanging branches

North .... Completely open



South .... Broken sunlight from a few overhanging branches

West .... Sheltered by hot afternoon sun by tilting of roof and a hedge which comes part way up

CAN AFRICAN VIOLETS . .

SUMMER OUT OF DOORS?

Harriet Lawton, Mass.

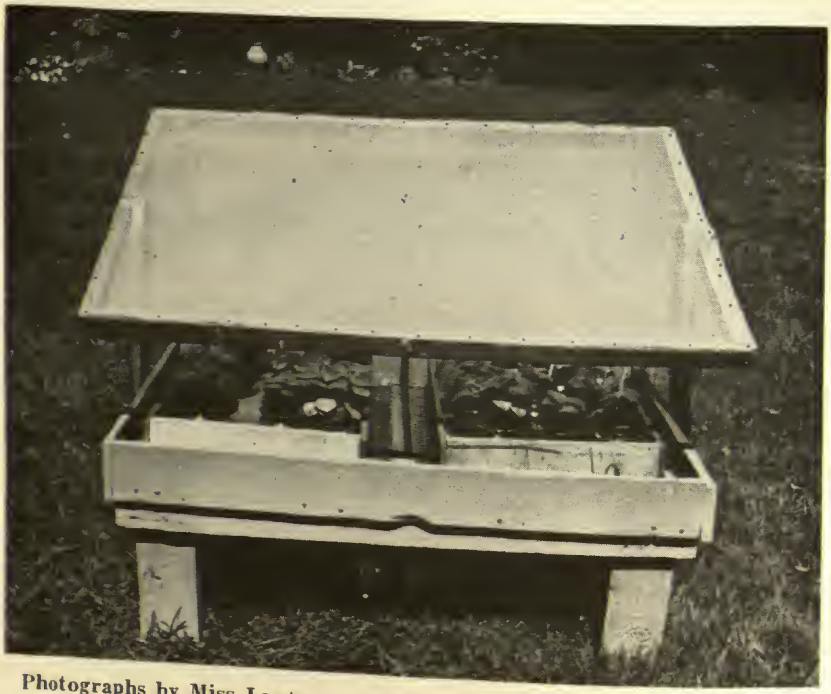
Can African violets summer out of doors? There has been quite a bit expressed about this, both pro and con. The answer is, "Yes, if provided with the proper conditions." They should have a sheltered spot, broken from strong sunlight and protected from high wind and heavy rain.

Some may sink pots in the ground, but I have found that leaves get spattered with mud. It is also easier to care for them if they are raised off the ground. For the last two years I have used a very simple, home-made frame which might be of interest to others in caring for a small number of plants in the open.

This was placed in the bright sunlight in order to get a better snapshot, but the true location of it is as follows: One of the sides was placed under shrubbery with shrubbery on its east. The upper branches of shrubbery extended partly over the southern end and on the west a hedge gave part shelter with the plastic cover tilted to complete shelter from hot afternoon summer sun. The northern end was unprotected.

Number 1

Number 2



Photographs by Miss Lawton

Number 3

The frame is made of stout material and cut to length according to space into which it must fit. 2"x4" uprights are good for the legs, with more than four legs if frame is to be a long one. A brace on the floor and center of the frame should be made, and the floor itself is covered with ½" stout chicken wire. This enables rain to drain through instead of accumulating. Stretched over the frame of the roof is plastic screening which can be bought by the yard. This is waterproof, permits the light to reach the plants but not the hot rays of the sun. The frame of the roof is fastened to two uprights at either end by bolts. This enables one to tilt the roof at an angle or to have it straight, according to direction of driving wind, rain, or sun. Be sure the uprights are sufficiently high so that the roof when at its lowest point will clear the plants.

As for sunlight or light, notice the shadows on No. 1 and No. 2. Compare the deep shadow cast from the solid part of the frame and then note the thin shadow as thrown by the roof. Also, on No. 3 note the diffused light showing the upright through the plastic screening. This is a good example of plants getting plenty of indirect light but not excess heat.

Cared for in this way, they get the benefit of the out of doors, but even if they are kept in saucers, they will not become too wet unless watered. Or, you may wick water them by placing the pots in your glass jars and these in turn in seed flats which makes them easily handled. This makes an ideal way to care for a spill over of plants during the summer months when the house becomes too small for the number.

Streptacarpus Rexii

Center - Episcia cupreata, Streptacarpus (middle back), Diastema pictum (background right)

Right - Streptacarpus

GESNERIACEAE

ARE INTERESTING!

Ruth DeYoung, Minn.

Because of such a wide interest in the African violet relatives, the Gesneriaceae I would like to tell you a little about them and a few of my experiences. To me, they are one of the most interesting and beautiful of plant families. Parts of the following article I wrote long ago, so if it is familiar to some, that is the reason.

The Gesneriaceae, a group of mostly herbaceous plants, are widely distributed in Tropical and South America, Islands of the Pacific, parts of Asia and Africa. The stems are commonly fleshy and prostrate, but the woody, shrubby kinds are climbers. Most of their leaves like a warm bath, the plants resent being watered with cold water, and most of them require some shade. The majority have tubular flowers. (All Gesneriaceae flowers are five lobed), i. e. Bailey.

A general soil mixture of two parts leaf mold, one part sand, one part soil, and one of well rotted manure, seems to fill their needs; if this is not available, any rich soil mixture will do. Though not recommended, I generally water them once a week with liquid manure tea when in the growing stage. (E. Frederick Smith says, "Straight leaf mold, best medium—lots of drainage.")

Achimenes, a Greek word meaning to suffer from cold, are Tropical American

Cont. on page 46

A violet-blue fiddle and a violet-orchid seedling with other plants. Arranged by Helen Pochurek

FOR SHOWS . . . .

VIOLET ARRANGEMENTS

Have you ever taken the time to think about how numerous and far reaching your African Violet Society's interests really are?

Although most members may say that they are not artistic or gifted, or that they just don't know how — many of the members of your club are quite capable; and with a little encouragement will discover that they have quite a flair for arrangements with our lovely violets. They will be happy and willing to work out novel ideas and unusual settings and to share this newly discovered talent with each other. . . . . .

It can add variety, as well as encourage regular attendance at the meetings of the club. It can enlarge the annual show and make it more appealing to the public.

This intensified interest may be brought about by having members prepare unusual arrangements, using single plants and groupings of plants. Special occasions and the seasons of the year may be observed with a little planning.

By using the varied talents and a little imagination, eye-catchingly beautiful and practical creations will be formed from what was thought of, just a few short years ago, as merely a pretty little house plant in a plain clay pot.

"Maypole Dance"

Arranged by Mrs. W. C. Coleman

From the Greeneville, S. C. Show 1950

"Easter". Arranged by Mrs. W. B. Mulligan and Mrs. M. R. Pickler — using a church altar draped in white satin, white candle in brass candelabra (all to scale), and white saintpaulias in small pots.

From the Greeneville, S. C. Show 1950

The "Jewel Table" with shades of green and violet to palest lavender tulle, holding jewel tone violets — from the Flint Michigan Show 1950

Species Nomenclature of the African Violet

Continued, with Special Attention To The

Species Saintpaulia Pusilla

Evan Roberts, Michigan and Harvey Cox, California

Saintpaulia pusilla is another one of the African violet species which was described by Professor Adolph Engler in his Botanische Jahrbucher, volume 28, number 4, July 13, 1900. This article and the accompanying photograph of the drawing were taken from his text which appears in German and Latin. The authors express their appreciation to Mr. Philip Coleman who photographed the drawing.

This African violet species is the smallest of nine described species. It can truly be called a miniature plant as may be noted by looking at the photograph which shows the entire plant in natural size.

We have Mr. W. Goetze to thank for having discovered this Saintpaulia while on a botanical expedition in Tanganyika Territory, East Africa. Fortunately, he prepared a very good herbarium specimen and sent it to Berlin before he died of "Blackwater" fever. This species may be found growing in the primeval forests of the central Uluguru mountains, on the south side of the Lukwangule plateaus, 1200 to 1800 meters on large boulders among moss.

Saintpaulia pusilla Engl. is a very small succulent herb. The leaves are closely crowded on a very short rhizome. A few scattered hairs cover the entire plant. Its tiny leaves have an ovate blade which is shorter than the petiole. The leaf blade is obtuse at both ends and is violet colored underneath. The petiole (leaf-stem) is at least 1½ times longer than the blade although sometimes it is shorter. The peduncles are as long as or longer than the petioles. Bracteols located on the peduncles are minute and lanceolate. The pedicles (flower stems) are slender and the flowers are about equal to them in length. Its tiny flowers consist of narrowly triangular sepals united at their base and a sparsely hairy corolla having a short tube. Upper light blue lobes of the corolla are ovate and are 1½ times shorter than the lateral. Lower lobes are white thus giving a "bicolor" effect by contrasting with the color of the upper lobes. Its two stamens are about equal the lateral lobes in length. Their yellow sacs are ovoid in shape and open inside. The pollen sacs dehisce along a short marginal slit. Stamanoides (rudimentary stamens) are large. Ovary is surrounded at base by a scarlet nectuary which is an ovoid ring-like disc. Ovary is surmounted by a style which is twice as long as ovary and ends in an obovate to ovoid stigma. The fruit is a capsule which is elongated at the base.

Explanation of the Drawing of

Table VII

Photographed by Philip Coleman

A. Entire plant; natural size

B. Longitudinal section of a flower; 5 times natural size

C. Flower opened up; 4 times natural size

D. The anthers from in front and behind; 10 times natural size

E. Sepal, discus and pistil; 7 times natural size

F. Cross section of the ovary; 15 times natural size

G. Young fruit; 3 times natural size (immature)

Saintpaulia pusilla Engl.

J. Pohl delin. Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann in Leipzig.

ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO . . .

Mrs. Polhammer and Mrs. Harland

A Violet Tea

Margaret E. Schoeverling, Wisconsin

A new way to show your African violets -- and to make a nice sum for your favorite church or charity was demonstrated recently by Mrs. Willard S. Harland, affectionately know to her friends and admirers as "The Violet Lady" and her friend, Mrs. Frank Pohlhammer. They called it "A Violet Tea," and it will be long remembered by every guest.

Well in advance of the date of the tea, the two friends sent out duplicated invitations on violet tinted paper, decorated with charming little violet stickers. The tea was so well organized and so well planned that nothing occurred throughout the entire afternoon to dampen anyone's spirits. Even the weather co-operated, although rather reluctantly. Clouds threatened all afternoon, but no rain fell.

As the guests arrived, they were greeted by their hostesses, and told how they might best see all the violets, which were placed strategically in every room and corridor, and at the head and foot of the staircase. Each guest received a duplicated sheet with advice on the care of the plants, advice drawn from the successful experience of both women, whose violets are a flower show in themselves any day of the year.

The tea was given at Mrs. Harland's lovely country home, between the hours of one and five. The whole house was a veritable fairyland of violets, for there were different kinds in every room. Mrs. Harland has the touch of an artist in arranging her plants -- each was set off to best advantage on either a high or low base, depending on foliage as well as on flowers, and against light walls or white curtains to achieve a delicately lovely yet wholly dramatic effect. The artistic blending and contrasting of the various colors and shades of blossoms created an almost unreal beauty.

This African violet hobby is a friendly give-and-take with both Mrs. Harland and Mrs. Pohlhammer. They do not sell their plants, but give and exchange leaves and plants with other enthusiasts. Many of the violets on display, therefore, had been given to them originally. Each blooming plant was identified by its name and chief characteristics on a small, violet colored

The Kitchen Window

card, and in many cases it was stated that the violet had been given to the owner by a friend. This added to the atmosphere of friendliness and intimacy.

Two hundred and twelve guests signed the guest book, and each one gave whatever contribution she cared to give for the organization benefiting from the tea. Members of the organization took over the pouring and serving of the tea and coffee and the serving of the light refreshments, that the hostesses might be free to greet and mingle with their guests.

Cont. on page 61

The Sunroom

SHOWS AT OMAHA NEBRASKA

The Fourth Midwest African Violet Show

The Fourth Midwest African Violet Show was held at Joslyn Museum in the Floral Court, sponsored by the Omaha African Violet Club on Saturday March 31 and Sunday April 1, 1951 with an attendance of over 8,000 enthusiasts.

The show was staged by Ray Gain. Mrs. T. E. Davis reported that 126 named varieties, 51 unnamed seedlings and 320 plants were displayed. 30 exhibitors and two commercial growers participated. Visitors were from the neighboring Midwest States and from as far east as New Jersey.

In addition to breath taking seedlings grown locally by Mesdames C. C. Andersen the Frill Series, J. W. Hofmann the Ak-Sar-Ben Series, Alex Riechart's, H. P. Galloway's and many others were displayed. Lovely Gloxinias and Episcias, related to the Gesneriacae family were shown in the commercial exhibits of Ray Gain and Hofmann's Hobby House.

Mrs. Ferne Keller of Des Moines, Iowa displayed her choice seedlings. Ulery's Rainbow Series from Springfield, Ohio, Fischer's Double Fringettes and many other new varieties of Linwood, N. J., and from Cecil Houdyshell varieties grown in LaVerne, California, were all flown in for the exhibit and admired with great interest and enthusiasm.

The Floral Court was a natural setting for the Show. Palms and other conservatory plants are growing in the back ground and the wall niches were filled with vases of multi-colored roses against the black tile. A rippling fountain in the center of the room and African violets in all colors adorned the sloping steps.

Mrs. Howard Martin is the Club president.

Left to right, Mrs. Norma Thomas, Marion, Iowa, Mrs. Howard Martin, Omaha, Mrs. Sophie Gordon, Vinton, Iowa. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Gordon were visitors Mrs. Martin is club president

Left to right, Mrs. William Schafer, show chairman holding a plant of Purple Prince and Mrs. Elmer Lintz, staging chairman holding a plant of Gorgeous

AT TECUMSEH

The African Violet Society of Tecumseh, Nebraska held their Second Annual show at the Tecumseh Community Building, Saturday and Sunday afternoons April 14 and 15. Approximately 1000 guests registered from the four state area, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.

Between 385 and 400 plants were displayed, 179 distinct varieties were shown, plus four groups of seedlings comprising some 140 plants.

A new pink variety, "Naughty Marietta," was shown for the first time publicly by Mrs. A. C. Hasenyager and Mrs. Fay Gillett and caused much favorable comment.

Seedling Crosses grouped around the parent plants, Blue Girl and Neptune created such a stir that this reporter can well imagine owners of the above varieties going home to hybridize fast and furiously, if that were possible.

Considering the many favorable comments, members of the Tecumseh African Violet Club feel repaid for the concentrated effort which was put forth.

UNWANTED RED HEAD GIRL

The Red Head Girl Photograph by Ross Hahn

Rose Hahn, Tenn.

Ring-g-g-g!

"Hello?"

It was Alma on the phone and talking violets again, almost always our main topic of conversation.

"Rose, I want to get rid of some of my violets, I've just got too many, and I want to make room for some newer varieties."

Naturally, I wanted to know what she wanted to dispose of.

"Well, one is a Red Headed Girl I've had for some time and it has never bloomed, it is sitting out on the back porch now, and I think I'll just throw it away."

In my mind's eye I could see my several hundred plants scattered throughout the house, but I just couldn't see a plant thrown away.

"Alma, I have a Red Headed Girl, but don't throw it away, let me see if I can get it to bloom."

So, I got the Unwanted Red Head. Alma suggested trying to grow it in water alone. I had never tried this and was afraid it would die, but she insisted I try it anyway, which I agreed to do.

This conversation took place the last of November a year ago. She brought the plant to my home, removed it from the pot, washed the soil off the roots, and we put it in a small amount of Hyponex, about one-half teaspoonful. New roots began to grow right away and every Monday morning I carefully lifted the plant out, washed out the bowl, put in fresh water and a little Hyponex (½ teaspoonful) and replaced the plant.

You would have to see the plant to know just how beautiful it is - it's very white roots in the clear bowl of water and topped with lovely scalloped green leaves - and the Blossoms!

The water changing procedure took place every week, and by the middle of January I was amply rewarded by a mass of exquisite two-toned blooms on long stems.

I've always heard that perseverance is rewarded - and now I believe it - as anyone can see by the accompanying picture - lovely, isn't it?

Strawberry Root Weevil And Damaged Leaves

AFRICAN VIOLET TROUBLE IN CONNECTICUT

Fay Stilwell

Early in July, I noticed the center of one of my young violets appeared to be all crinkled up as though it might be infested with mite, although just a couple of days previously, it had appeared perfectly normal. On closer examination with a small magnifying glass, I found that the young center leaves were not curled but the tips had been eaten, giving them the appearance of mite damage. I then noticed a number of leaves rooting in a low flat dish had big pieces eaten out of the edge, and on looking on the underside found several small insects having a feast. They were eating around the edge of the leaves, also the main fleshy veins and the underside of the stems. I also found whole flower stems laying on the window seat under my violets that had been chewed right off about half an inch from the crown of the plant, even some of the flowers had been devoured.

Examination of all the plants in that window disclosed that the underside of many of the leaf stems on young plants had spots starting to decay that looked as though they had been lying on the edge of the pot for some time but had been damaged by the insects. These affected spots were less than an inch from the crown and not near the edge of the pot. I also found these insects squeezed in between the leaf stems eating right on the crown of some of the plants. This all showed up within a few days of the time I first noticed damage.

On my older plants that had been sodium selenate treated there was very slight damage in just one or two instances, but there were dead insects on top of the soil and on the window seat under those particular plants, the plants badly damaged being young plants I had not yet treated.

I collected several of these insects and sent them in to our Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and they were immediately identified as the strawberry root weevil (Brachyrhinus ovatus). I was advised that these weevils have been causing considerable trouble in Connecticut during the past two years in nursery plantings of conifers, particularly hemlock, American arbor vitae and yews. As there is a large commercial nursery only a short distance from our home and we have several arbor vitae trees around the house, evidently these weevils moved in to feed on the trees and decided to come in the house looking for greener pastures.

On thing that concerns me most about this infestation is the manner in which the bug works. When only about ten days old, the adult weevil lays eggs on the soil which hatch in about another ten days. The larvae are white in color, and are less than a quarter of an inch in length with no legs. Outdoors they feed on the root system of trees until cold weather, when they work downward in the soil to a depth of six to fourteen inches to spend the winter. In the spring they work up-

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VIOLETS IN TIERS

Anna Ryder, Ohio

No, my violets are not in t-e-a-r-s, although they are fenced in. They are perfectly happy in their new tier-tables.

For a couple of years, I had been visualizing shelves in front of the double window in my dining room to accommodate my house plants. Since this had not as yet materialized and the number of my violets had increased by leaps and bounds, I put on my "thinking-cap" to concoct something that would accommodate more violets than the narrow shelves would hold and then find someplace else to put the other house plants.

Also, since these windows face the south, I was fearful of the violets having too much sunshine at times, if they were placed on shelves so close to the window panes. So I conceived the idea of the tier-tables, the lower one of which is on casters and can be rolled away from the windows if necessary.

My husband helped me build the tables which we made from scraps of lumber on hand. Each table is equipped with a galvanized pan which we had made to fit. This avoids the use of saucers under the pots. I finished the tables with a coat of maple varnish stain to somewhat tie in with the maple furniture of the dining room.

The finished product, with those galvanized pans showing so plainly made me want to say, "Your slip is showing." Therefore I just had to do something about it. So I put on my "thinking-cap" again and came up with the idea of using some lath taken out of the bass-wood porch blinds

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Mrs. Ryder and her tier-table

Mrs. Bowles, plant grown from a leaf out of water from November 2nd to January 13th

Viking plant grown from a leaf out of water from February 7th to March 11th

YOU CAN . . .

Forget About the Water

CARRY YOUR LEAF CUTTINGS WITHOUT FUSS OR BOTHER

THEY ARE TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK THEY ARE

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

I have tried saintpaulia leaves at many different temperatures and varying humidities. I have tried many varieties and sizes of leaves. I have tried them in open rooms and in closed boxes resting on cotton. The pictures show the results of this experiment.

For those who wish to bring home leaves while away from home visiting for one, two, or three months, it is a very convenient method.

I prefer the smaller leaves -- about the first or second row from the center of the plant. Place the leaves on cotton or a flat box that will fit into your purse. Carry them home his way.

When you reach home cut off a small portion of the stem, and stand them in water for 24 to 48 hours to perk them up.

Root them in your favorite way. I like to dip mine in rootone and set them in vermiculite.

If the leaf turns brown it will not revive -- it can get tissue paper thin and still survive.

So go ahead and trade leaves with your friends and forget about the water!

Mrs. Wangberg is shown here watering one of her attractive plants.

LET'S VISIT

Visiting with Maxine Wangberg is not only a pleasure but an education as well. Her home town of Perry, Iowa, is as pleasant as is our hostess. Coming from the East we drive down a beautiful, maple shaded avenue that undoubtedly has a name, but unfortunately, we never notice street names—probably this is the reason we usually get lost.

The Wangberg's story and a half, white frame home is nicely placed in its wide yard among trees. Attached to the garage we espy her greenhouse, and our feet naturally want to follow our eyes. However, the saying "the longest way 'round is the shortest way home" applies to violet visitors, due to the necessary courtesies. Treating the greenhouse as a dish of our favorite dessert —keeping the best for last—we approach the front door.

Maxine greets visitors with her nice welcoming smile and we realize that we are having the dessert first after all. Mr. Wangberg is, unfortunately, away at business, but Martin, Jr., has just returned from school and Karen is still rubbing an afternoon nap from her eyes, so we are properly introduced. We are seated in the living-room "Champing at the bit" while Maxine, with a mischievous twinkle keeps popping questions, "Do you know- - -? Do you have - - -? Have you seen - - -? Finally after we have suffered to the end of our endurance—and she knows it—she asks, "Would you like to go out and see the plants?" We are, uncouthly, half way to the door before she finishes the sentence.

In the yard we appreciate this plant, and that bush, and a special grouping, because our "mother's teachings" have asserted themselves and we are politely interested. We learn, during our too brief visit, the reason for the delay in being ushered to the greenhouse and that the mischievous smile was in part one of apprehension. We had followed too soon in the wake of one deflating individual who, upon first sight, exclaimed, "Oh my, your plants aren't even in it with mine. Mine are so much larger!" Maxine, of course, did not realize that Saintpaulia collectors fall into one of two classes:

those whose plants are always larger, better bloomers than those of all other collectors; or, those who, every time they see another collection, want to return home and immediately consign all their inferior weeds to the compost heap and begin anew. WE are of the latter class.

Maxine had no need for apprehension, for her plants are lovely. Possibly we have seen one or two plants that were larger but, if so, they were in a collection of a few plants where more space afforded larger development.

When Martin, Sr., married Maxine she brought, as her "dowry," a "plant or two" of the genus Saintpaulia because she "liked them." Some time later she heard of a "red" violet and the resulting search became the beginning of a self-supporting hobby. Later correspondence and a meeting with Ferne Keller cemented a friendship and furthered her collecting desires. The fact that she could not help "putting down a leaf" soon necessitated the greenhouse and the eventual sale of blooming plants. These sales now support a hobby—which few of us can afford—and her only compensation is that of her love for African violets and her ability to raise them successfully.

"It's clean" is the greatest tribute that can be said of any greenhouse and certainly applies to this one. We are confronted by several new "wrinkles." The greenhouse of the Wangberg's has an extra series of small low windows just above the ground and below benches. These windows have a purpose, as we soon learn. There is no need to clutter the space beneath the benches with pots, potting mixtures, etc., for it is the locale of propagation.

Maxine is a believer in the terrarium also, but for this purpose she utilizes old glass battery jars from the local auto salvage yard. These jars are about one-fourth full of her rooting medium—equal parts of peat, sand and vermiculite. Leaves from her plants are cut with about two inches of petiole for propagating. The petiole is inserted through a piece of heavy paper bear-

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HANGING BASKETS

Lottie Bowman, Tenn.

Why hanging baskets happen I do not know, but most of my plants that have had baskets sucker freely. Blue Amethyst in the description that follows seems to have more baskets and larger ones. They naturally show up as the plant has long stems and not such heavy foliage.

Amethyst Plant — Size twelve inches across with two baskets six inches across hanging on five inch stems. Nice shape and foliage.

Blooming period — The plant started blooming at six months and bloomed freely, with large blossoms and continued blooming without any rest period. I gave the plant food each week.

Basket Blooming Period—First — These plants began blooming when small, 2½ to 3 inches across. The plant was 1 year old, and the baskets about 5 months. The baskets had 8 or 10 blossoms pin head size, but with perfect shape and color. S econd —The baskets had a rest period of 4 or 5 weeks. The next blossoms were ⅓ size of the plant blossoms for an average Amethyst blossom. Rest period about 4 weeks. Third—This time the blossoms were ½ size of plant blossoms. In other words, blossoms were larger each time the baskets bloomed. They did not hold their blossoms long. The buds would appear, bloom out but no new ones would form until after the rest period.

To my sorrow, I lost this plant during the summer. I would like to describe the destructive worms. I'm sure they were brought in from the garden. I first discovered small round holes in the leaves—getting my magnifying glass I discovered dozens of perfect shaped measuring worms all colors, standing on their heads boring a hole in the foliage. I used the Clorox treatment: two teaspoons of Clorox to one quart of warm water, covering the whole plant. Then with my magnifying glass I could see the worms wiggling out and coming to the top of the water. This got rid of the worms, but the plant was too far gone to save. I am wondering if the basket blossoms would have ever been the size of the plant blossoms.

Trilby Plant

I am still experimenting with baskets; at present I have a Trilby that is far from pretty, but odd.

Trilby Plant — 1½ years old. It has six baskets extended on 3½ inch stems from the stalk or the plant. They have typical Trilby foliage and the curled baskets measure 3½ inches and 4 inches across. Four stems have only 1 basket, and 2 stems have 2 baskets, and 1 stem has 3 baskets.

With baskets on baskets, this plant has grown fast, bloomed freely, suckered abundantly. I have kept all suckers off after this plant stopped blooming. I removed all leaves from the plant just leaving the crown. This has given the baskets strength and they have grown much faster. The original plant has reproduced baskets twice. I now have quite a few Trilbys from this plant at blooming stage. I am wondering if there will be the third generation of baskets? My next move will be to take the entire crown out giving all the strength to baskets.

Using SODIUM SELENATE or PARATHION on AFRICAN VIOLETS

J. R. Hoffman, Department of Entomology, Michigan State College, E. Lansing Mich.

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Sodium selenate and parathion are extremely poisonous materials and are not generally recommended for home use. Due to the very poisonous nature of these materials they should never be left or stored where children may get into them. All precautions recommended here and on the package or container labels of the insecticide should be observed. Food plants should not be planted in soils containing sodium selenate for at least one year after the last application of this chemical to the soil.

SODIUM SELENATE

Precautions: Keep sodium selenate solutions off of the skin, and wash the hands thoroughly after handling sodium selenate or sodium selenate solutions.

Dissolve 100 grams (3½ oz.) of sodium selenate in 1 gallon of water to prepare a stock solution. This stock solution should be kept in a well stoppered jug plainly labelled "Sodium Selenate - POISON".

Dilute the stock solution at a rate of 1 oz. (fluid) of stock solution to 100 oz. (fluid) of water. Water the potted plants with this stock solution in the normal way. Do not get the solution on the foliage. Sodium selenate solutions should be used only on well established and growing plants, and should not be used on newly transplanted or very young plants. One, or at most two, applications of sodium selenate solution per year in this manner should be sufficient.

PARATHION

While parathion, because of its highly poisonous nature, is not generally recommended to the home flower grower for pest control, it may be used under certain conditions for pests which are extremely difficult to control by other methods. Only two methods of use are recommended for parathion, spraying and dusting. Both of these methods should be carried out in a well ventilated area. Care should be taken to avoid contaminating with parathion residues, food stuffs and places and spaces where foods are handled or prepared for use.

When parathion sprays or dusts are used, proper precautionary and protective measures should be employed. An approved type of parathion chemical cartridge respirator should be worn, protective clothing (which should be aired and laundered between uses) should be worn as well as a hat to cover the hair, and rubber gloves. After using the sprays or dusts all exposed parts of the body should be thoroughly washed with soap and water. If any of the spray solution is spilled on the body it should be washed off as soon as practical with soap and water. Read the label on the container in which the parathion spray or dust materials are obtained for complete precautionary measures which should be followed.

Sprays: Parathion sprays are prepared from 15% parathion wettable powders. The 15% parathion wettable powder should be mixed at a rate of 1½ pounds to 100 gallons of water, or for smaller amounts this is equivalent to 1½ tablespoons to each gallon of water. Complete and thorough coverage of the plants with the spray is necessary for good pest control. For mites and mealy bugs several applications of the spray at 1 week intervals are recommended.*

Dusts: For the dusting of plants with parathion a 1% parathion dust is recommended. For the best and most effective results for pest control, complete and thorough coverage of the plants with the dust is required. For mites and mealy bugs several applications of the dust at weekly intervals may be necessary.* After treatments are completed unsightly dust residues may be removed from the plant and foliage by a gentle washing with warm water.

*Cyclamen mites offer the worst problem of control because of their very small size and their ability to hide in the flower buds. Once in the buds they are protected from the insecticide (parathion) and complete elimination is nearly impossible. The mites may be kept under control with parathion during the flowering stage of the plant by monthly treatments with parathion. The two-spotted spider mite is larger than the cyclamen mite and does not get into the closed flower buds. This mite is much easier to control with parathion. Cyclamen mites are best controlled with sodium selenate when the plants are in bud, but may be controlled with parathion on young and non-flowering plants.

GROWING SHOW PLANTS

Quixie Nichols, Tenn.

The Nashville African Violet Club had its first large show last spring at the Hermitage Hotel. There were over three hundred entries, among which were many beautiful specimen plants. They were for the most part grown in the homes of the club members who, of course, are amateurs. It proved conclusively that beautiful, clean, symmetrical plants, filled with bloom, can be grown by other than professional growers.

The plants reflected the consistent care that is so necessary to growing perfect plants. While some varieties grow into beautiful symmetrical plants with very little extra care, others need daily turning and sometimes they even require spacing of the leaves. I took toothpicks and placed on either side of the petioles for a few days until the leaves grew as I wished, after which I removed the toothpicks. This is necessary as some plants just will not shape up as you wish with the daily turning.

The surest way to grow a lovely prize winning plant is to start with a small plant, single crown of course. Dip the top of a 2½ inch pot in paraffin to prevent petioles from burning or bruising on edge of pot. I use a good light soil made up of about 1/3 leaf mold with pieces of half rotted leaves with straw etc., and the remaining 2/3 a mixture of broken charcoal, sand, some well rotted manure, and some Georgia peat, all of which is sterilized before using. Place plant in center of pot being careful to anchor well, but be sure crown is not covered. When the plant gets large enough to reach over edges of pot shift to a 3 inch standard or 4 inch azalea pot.

Keep plants well watered at all times, as more have been damaged by getting too dry than ever have by too much water. Never allow a pot to sit in water over six to twelve hours. Plants always suffer from standing in water over a period of time.

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Mrs. Maddox left holding a plant of Blue Girl Mrs. Nichols right holds a plant of Blue Warrior

VIOLET PARADISE

DESCRIBED IN THIS STORY IS DORLENE THE BEAUTIFUL PLANT WITH THE VARIEGATED BLOSSOMS FEATURED ON THE FRONT COVER

Ethel Thalheimer, Cal.

On a 150 foot cliff by the shore of the Pacific Ocean is a home that gives pleasure to many besides the family of three wonderful people, Genevieve Marsh, her husband, Ira, and their daughter, Dorlene. It is a paradise for African violets.

The house faces the ocean with a deep porch across the front. One violet DID adorn the dining room window, and that was the beginning. The breakfast room is to the east. That exposure is all glass, so Ira put up three adjustable shelves for the increasing collection. As the plants outgrew these shelves, they were put in the dining room in front of the plate glass windows, and to their back is a plate molding displaying a beautiful collection of hand painted plates, cups and saucers. Yes, some have violets painted on them. Next, the music room had violets at the windows and Dorlene, now twelve years old, became interested and wanted some violets of her own to grow in her room. That was fine, but she wanted to learn to propagate them.

The family went into a huddle and of course "the men always have to pay," so Ira was elected to glass in the east end of the porch for a propagating room. For two years, Genevieve has worked to con-

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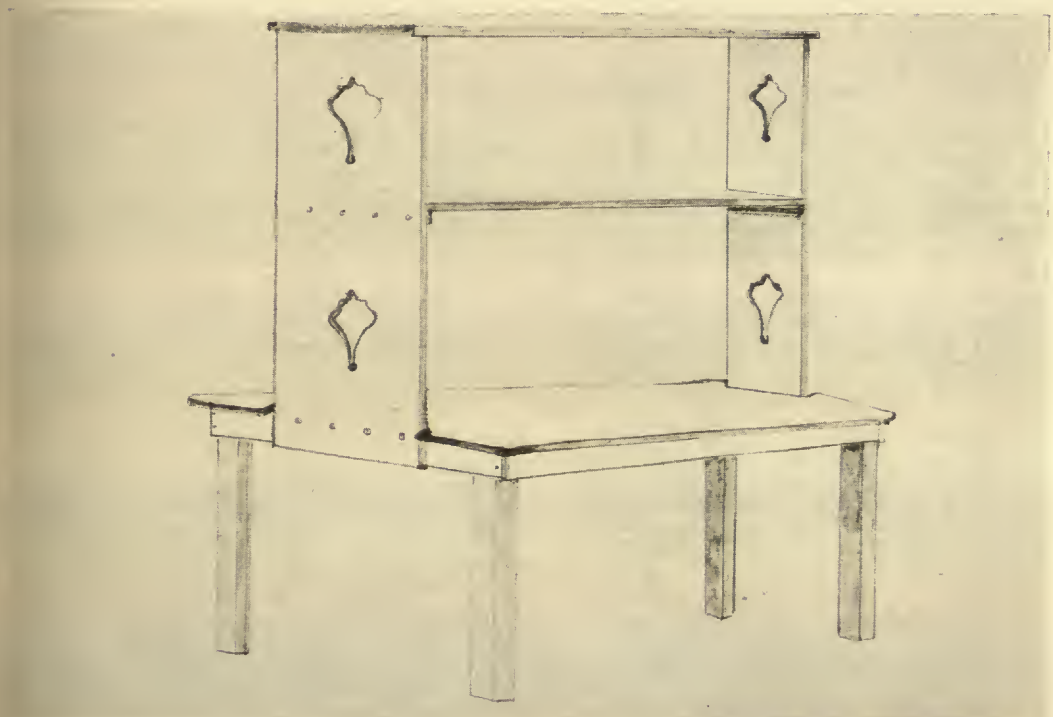

The Marsh Growing Bench

PRACTICAL

PLANT STAND

Mrs. Driebel

Katherine C. Driebel, Ind.

We are very enthusiastic about our method of growing African violets—on a stand, and feel it is a wonderful way to do so when one has a limited window space.

Three and a half years ago, we moved to our present location. We have a large house but lots of violets and we didn't have enough windows for them.

One day I thought, "Why can't they be grown under artificial light?" My husband agreed we try it, so he planned and built the stand himself.

It is made of steel, about forty-eight inches long and five feet high. The trays are made of galvanized steel. They are painted on the outside but not inside; they are about two inches deep and two feet wide.

At first, we used twenty watt daylight fluorescent bulbs twenty-four inches long, but now, as you can see in one of the pictures, we have forty watt lights, forty-eight inches long. They are as long as the trays.

When we first built the stand, we could hardly wait to get it ready to place our plants in their new home. We filled the trays with vermiculite. We placed well started small plants and some that didn't seem to have a good start in the trays and awaited results.

Honestly! It was a surprise to us how quickly the plants began to take on a rich color, and they grew so fast. We have found that all plants grown in this way have wonderful foliage and rich color.

We had to take out some of the varieties that grow tall, such as Frieda, Red Spoon, White Beauty, and others; they just about touched the other trays, but they had started to bloom and kept right on doing so.

Some plants have been in bloom since last Spring and have never stopped. Some that were divided and repotted started to bud and bloom right away.

The simplicity of it all is what intrigues us. One can take care of a large number of plants with so little effort. At present, I have nearly two hundred in the trays.

Of course, when a new plant comes to our collection, it is put aside until we know it is all right to put in the trays with the others.

The lights are left on all day, but are turned off at night. The plants are watered by pouring water in the trays. They get light, humidity and water all at the same time. These three things, I think, are the main factors in raising African violets. We find it very inexpensive to operate after the initial cost.

When one has a limited window space for plants, this stand is the solution. It can be built any size and one may use any size bulbs. Our stand is painted white, but it could be painted any color to blend with the color scheme of a room.

For people living in the city in smaller homes or apartments, or any one who has wanted to raise African violets and didn't have the light, I wish to recommend a stand and fluorescent lights—using daylight bulbs. We are so pleased with ours that we are planning to build a bigger one.

I do hope our experiment will help others who have wanted to grow African violets but felt they did not have the light or space to grow them. As you can see in the picture, more lights and more plants have been added, since the first picture was taken.

Mrs. Coniber and part of her collection

Mrs. Coniber's

COLLECTION

Velma M. Brocker, N. Y.

In Batavia, N. Y., halfway between Rochester and Buffalo, Mrs. Elroy Coniber is becoming known as the "African Violet" lady. Here, at her home at 16 Richmond Ave., Batavia, she has a collection of about 175 varieties, and over a thousand plants.

About fifteen years ago, while a patient in the local hospital, she received as a gift a common variety of this plant, "Blue Boy." This original plant is still in her collection, and she has long since lost count of the number of plants started from this one variety.

Next, she had an Ionantha, then a pink one, and then a white one. Soon the names began to be important, and the identification of various plants was learned. However, her family kept her busy, and she was content to keep several plants in bloom, starting others to give her friends. Then as her two boys grew older, she found more time to read about African violets, and as this plant was becoming more popular, she found more information available to read.

About three years ago, Mrs. Coniber began collecting new varieties and giving serious thought to her hobby. Now her collection is something at which to marvel - and the range of colors, size of blooms, and difference in foliage, delight anyone interested in these lovely blooms.

At the rear of the Coniber house is a large room with windows on three sides, strictly an African violet room, and here

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THE USE OF
COLCHICINE IN PLANT BREEDING

By HAIG DERMEN, cytologist (in fruits) and S. L. EMSWELLER, principal horticulturist (in floriculture), Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, Beltsville, Md.

Permission to reprint obtained from
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Colchicine, a poisonous medicinal chemical, has been used since 1937 in plant breeding work to produce changes in plants by doubling the number of chromosomes in cells, a condition referred to as **polyploidy.** The increased number of chromosomes usually brings about an increase in size of the affected cells and various degrees of changes in their functions. In contrast with the normal plants, those developed by colchicine treatment often show changes in height and width; in thickness of branches; in size, shape, and texture of leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds; in fertility of flowers; and in physiological responses. However, the degree of changes produced when the chromosome number is doubled cannot be predicted, and "magic" changes referred to by some popular writers are not to be expected. The visual changes induced in some plants are so small that even an experienced person will have difficulty in recognizing them.

Colchicine is extracted from either the seeds or the corms of **Colchicum autummale** L. (meadow saffron or fall crocus) and may be bought in very small quantities in powder form from certain chemical concerns. A small quantity of colchicine can be used to treat a large number of plants, seeds, or other types of material, if applied without undue waste. Where a dipping method is used, the solution may be used several times. Generally colchicine is used in water solution in concentrations from as low as 0.02 percent up to 1.00 percent. The assistance of a druggist may be obtained in preparing desired percentages and quantities of solutions.

In handling colchicine, extreme care should be taken to keep it out of the eyes, to avoid possible dangerous consequences; and the hands should be washed after contact with the chemical to prevent possible skin irritation.

How Colchicine Works

The colchicine solution affects plant cells during the division stages and has no apparent effect on nondividing cells. In normal cell divisions the chromosomes split lengthwise, and each half chromosome migrates to the opposite sides of the cell. A new cell wall forms between the two masses of chromosomes and thus two daughter cells are formed, each having the same number of chromosomes as the mother cell. If colchicine is present in the dividing cell, the chromosomes split but are held together at one point and do not migrate to the opposite sides, and the division of the cell is prevented. Thus, from the colchicine treatment there results a cell with twice as many chromosomes in its nucleus as the same cell had previous to treatment. After such initial chromosome doubling, if the colchicine diffuses away from the plant tissues or becomes so dilute as to be ineffective, the nuclei in the cells with the double chromosome number can divide normally to form daughter cells but with the double number of chromosomes. In addition to doubling the number of chromosomes, colchicine treatment has at times been found to cause addition or loss of one or more chromosomes in both the normal and the double types.

It is obvious from the way colchicine affects plant cells that applications will be most effective if the material to be treated is growing vigorously, so that many cells are dividing. Treatment of dormant seeds, scales of lily bulbs, and similar material, however, has induced polyploidy, presumably because colchicine penetrates the seeds and scales and is maintained there for some time until cell divisions have begun; after this the colchicine becomes effective.

Types of Changes Induced

In the terminal growing points of shoots and in lateral buds, there appear to be three cell layers, more or less distinct, each of which gives rise to a

separate tissue or a tissue system or to areas in a tissue in the stem, leaves, and other plant organs. The outer cell layer of the growing point of the shoot or bud generally gives rise to a one-cell thick tissue, the epidermis. The next layer to it may give rise, depending on the kind of plant, to either a layer of tissue one-cell thick immediately under the epidermis, or to several layers, including the outer portions of the cortex. A third layer may give rise to the remaining tissues in the stem. Pollen grains and egg cells originate in the tissue derived from the second of the three layers just described.

Colchicine treatment may affect one cell layer and not the others, or any two layers may be affected and the remaining layer not be affected, or all three may be affected. This last possibility is rarer than the first two. Experiments have shown that polyploidy resulting from colchicine treatment may be of three main types:

1. **Epidermal-polyploidy.** — Enlargement of stomates (breathing pores) on leaves subsequent to treatment indicates that the epidermis or outermost layer of the material is polyploidized, but it does not indicate that internal tissues are changed. If the internal tissues are not polyploidized, this type of change may be called epidermal-polyploidy.

2. **Internal-polyploidy.** — Any change in which a layer of cells or a tissue or tissues beneath the epidermis are made polyploid but in which the epidermis remains normal may be called internal-polyploidy. This type of polyploidy may be of three kinds: (a) Only the tissue immediately under the epidermis is polyploidized; (b) The inner tissues are polyploidized, but the tissue for a number of cell layers beneath the epidermis remains normal; (c) All the inner tissues become polyploidized, the epidermis of the plant alone remaining normal. Enlarged pollen grains from flowers of a treated plant indicate that at least the tissue next to the epidermis is polyploidized from the colchicine treatment. Polyploidy in the conductive tissue of the stem makes branches more stocky. Leaves become larger and broader in any kind of internal polyploidy. Flower petals and especially the anthers are chiefly affected if the tissue next to the epidermis is polyploidized. Chromosome counts in the cells of roots of a vegetative cutting would show whether or not the conductive tissue of the stem is polyploid. Such an examination of roots of seedlings treated by colchicine does not indicate whether the above-ground portion of a seedling is affected by colchicine treatment or not.

3. **Total-polyploidy.** — A plant in which all the tissues are polyploidized may be designated a total-polyploid.

The extent of polyploidy can best be determined by examining under a high-power microscope parraffin sections of treated material taken from the very tip of a vigorously growing branch suspected of polyploidy. In such preparations, one must determine the chromosome number in a number of cells in each tissue system mentioned above to find out exactly what tissue system is polyploidized. Size of cells or of nuclei or of mere chromatin mass alone is not sufficient to determine the absolute extent of polyploidy in the treated plant.

From the results on induced polyploids it has been shown that the degree of fertility of these plants is usually affected. In a number of cases sterile hybrids resulting from hybridization between species of the same or closely related genera have been made fertile by chromosome doubling, while with others that has not been possible. Often where the plants have been highly fertile, they are made less fertile. Lessening of the fertility or inducing complete sterility by polyploidy may not always be deleterious. Where, for instance, plants are propagated vegetatively and grown for leaves and flowers or other plant parts, sterility may even be desirable. In such fruits as strawberries and raspberries, lowering of fertility causes numerous seeds to fail to develop and results in partially developed and deformed fruits. However, such plants may become of great value as breeding material.

A number of reports indicate that besides quantitative changes in plants resulting from polyploidy there also have been changes of qualitative character. These may be in color intensity of leaves and flowers; in fragrance of leaves, flowers, or other plant parts; and in content of oils, starches, sugars, vitamins, etc. Fundamentally these changes that are ordinarily considered qualitative are mostly, if not entirely, changes of quantitative nature, since they result from either an increase or a decrease of the various products naturally present in the plants.

Methods of Treatment and Detection of Polyploidy

The colchicine solution at the beginning and during the time of treatment should be at room temperature. With small seedlings or fast-growing herbaceous

plants it is best that the treatment be made with as weak a solution as may be effective, as early in the active growth of the plant as possible, and for a relatively short period of time. Application of a strong solution or a prolonged treatment may prevent growth of the treated material or even kill it. Success in the treatment of growing material is based on the principal that the chemical should reach the regions of growth; therefore, the manner of treatment depends upon the type of material to be treated. A few of the methods, which may be modified to suit the material and the inclination of each experimenter, follow:

1. **Seed treatment.** -- Seeds of many varieties of plants have been soaked in a 0.2 percent to 1.6 percent (usually 0.2 percent) solution for 1 to 10 days before planting. Soaking of seeds should be done in a very shallow container so that the seeds are not deprived of oxygen. Seed treatment methods should be used only for seeds that germinate quickly. In the case of slow-germinating seeds, the treatment should be deferred until the seeds commence active germination, in which case the treatment is fundamentally the same as with seedlings.

2. **Seedling treatment.** -- Freshly germinated seeds are kept immersed in about 0.2 percent colchicine solution in a shallow container, or placed on filter paper or blotting paper spread out in shallow dishes and thoroughly wet with the solution, for 3 to 24 hours, depending upon how rapidly the seedlings are growing and how bulky they are. If the material is suitable, the young seedlings may be treated as follows: The root ends are placed on a strip of absorbent cotton thoroughly wet with water and the seedlings are then rolled into a bundle; the cotton covers the root ends and forms a plug that will fit loosely in a small vial. The bundle of plants is then inverted and placed in the vial with only the stem ends immersed in or in contact with the water solution of colchicine. By this method the root system is kept moist and practically unaffected by the chemical, thus preventing some of the mortality that usually follows treatment of whole seedlings. When seeds are germinated in the dark the resulting seedlings, being longer than normal, are often suitable for this type of treatment.

Another method is: Plant seeds, well spaced, in pots or flats. When seedlings have emerged from the soil and the cotyledons or the first one or two leaves have opened, place a small amount of 0.2 to 0.5 percent colchicine solution between the cotyledons or over the vegetative growing point. To each 10 cc of colchicine solution should be added 2 to 4 drops of 10-percent solution of Santomerse (a product of the Monsanto Chemical Company, St. Louis, Missouri) or a similar wetting-detergent agent, such as Dreft, a household detergent used as a substitute for soap. Leave some seedlings untreated for comparison with the treated ones. The growth of the treated seedlings will be retarded in comparison with the untreated ones if the treatment is at all effective.

3. **Treatment of growing shoots and buds.** -- Tips of rapidly-growing shoots or an entire growing bud may be treated by placing a drop or more of the colchicine solution over the tip, once or several times, or by immersing the growing tip for a number of hours in a vessel containing the solution. The tips of growing shoots may be smeared with a mixture of 0.5 to 1.0 percent colchicine in lanolin. All these methods have given satisfactory results, particularly with herbaceous plants. Woody and semi-woody plants (buds or young shoot tips) require a somewhat different treatment. For those, one of the following solutions is recommended: (1) 0.5 to 1 percent colchicine in a 10 or 20 percent water solution of glycerine; or (2) 0.5 to 1 percent water solution of colchicine. In order to facilitate penetration and spreading of these solutions, a very small amount of a wetting or spreading agent (see above) should be added.

Another method is: Cut off the very tip of a vigorously-growing shoot and wet with the colchicine solution the lateral buds three or four times at four-day intervals. Lateral shoots growing from untreated areas should be destroyed. Colchicine effect should be looked for in those buds or shoot tips that are partially retarded in growth as a result of the treatment. The effectiveness of the treatment may be judged from the distorted growth of a number of the leaves emerging after the treatment.

It is advisable to limit the treatment to one shoot on a cutting or grafted shoot; the rest should be cut off. Shoots that are to be treated should be allowed to grow some 6 inches or more before the tip or lateral buds are treated. The older leaves on such shoots should be left to furnish nutrition for the plant.

In woody material total polyploidy affecting the whole new growth very seldom occurs. The effect may often be confined to a narrow sector, to a certain primary tissue, or to a limited portion of such

tissues. When buds do not show any retardation as compared with nontreated material a few days after the treatment, it may indicate that the treatment has not been effective; therefore, such buds should immediately be prepared again for treatment and retreated.

Colchicine-induced polyploidy can often be recognized in leaves that are larger and broader than normal, or in part of a leaf (often a half, one side of the midrib) that is larger than the other part and different in texture. Such leaves should be looked for in parts of the treated material that develop from the main growing point after the treatment or from axillary buds that were present in the treated regions. Polyploid branches may be grown from buds in the axils of the changed leaves by cutting off the part above these leaves. If no change is detected, then buds that were very young and were developing at the time of treatment and which may subsequently have remained dormant may be forced into growth on a possible chance that they have been affected by the treatment and contain the desired changes. Any extraneous growths that may hinder growth in the treated part should be constantly eliminated.

When a polyploid sector is discovered in an otherwise normal stem, it should, if possible, be forced to grow out into a branch; the propagation of such a branch by grafting or rooting (depending on the type of plant) should not be delayed. A polyploidized sector as such may not continue to grow indefinitely parallel with a normal tissue in the same stem, and eventually may be lost as the stem develops. Perhaps a slower rate of growth of polyploid tissues in the same stem with normal tissues may account for such a loss.

4. **Treatment of bulbs and corms.** -- The terminal growing points in bulbs and corms are buried within a mass of scales or other storage tissues and are therefore difficult to reach with colchicine. In the case of tulips, narcissus, bulbous iris, and onion the colchicine may be introduced into the growing regions by a hypodermic needle. In gladiolus, penetration of colchicine solution into small cormels has been achieved under a partial vacuum. This method might prove effective also with small bulbs of tulip and narcissus. In bulbaceous material such as lilies, where detached scales from the bulb may readily form small bulbs at the base after planting, the following treatment has been very successful: Scales are detached and immediately immersed in a 0.2 percent solution for about 2 hours; then they are planted with the tips exposed. The length of time of treatment and concentration of the solution may have to be varied to obtain results with the different species of lilies and other bulbaceous material.

At this point it must be emphasized that desirable changes in many bulbaceous plants are not to be expected, since many are already polyploids and further doubling of the chromosomes may result in inferior plants. Also, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that colchicine treatment frequently has been unsuccessful, especially with woody plants and other material where penetration of the chemical into the growing regions presents difficulties; and furthermore, that the doubled-chromosome forms, if produced, are not always improvements over the normal types. Some changes often can be recognized only by careful observation, involving the use of a microscope or a high-magnifying hand lens. Some changes effected by colchicine may be so inconspicuous that they at times escape casual observation. In interpreting results from the use of colchicine it is not only necessary to know the growth habits and cultural requirements of the experimental plant but also to have expert knowledge of plant structure, some knowledge of the principles of genetics, experience in recognizing and evaluating induced changes, and training in the use of the microscope. A high-magnifying hand lens in some cases may make it possible to see a change in size and distribution of stomates of a normal leaf. Changes in superficial structures such as hairs and glands that are of epidermal origin may also be detected.

As can be seen from the above presentation, colchicine cannot be considered as a plant food, "growth elixir," or fertilizer. Its application to induce polyploidy is confined mostly to vegetative growing points, and only a very limited quantity of material is treated at a time. For a more extended discussion of artificially induced polyploidy and information on some of the results obtained, readers are referred to "Colchicine Polyploidy and Technique," Bot. Rev. 6:599-635, 1940, which is essentially a general review of the literature on the subject. This and related publications may be found in the libraries of most State agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

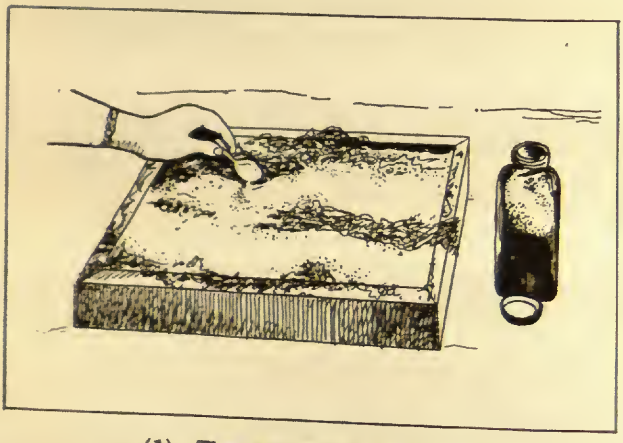
Soil Sterilization and Disinfection

Arthur Chard and Leslie George, Mass.

We often use the term "soil sterilization." Is this actually what we mean? Webster's definition of the word "sterilize" is: "to make sterile; to deprive of the power of reproduction." Is it not more likely that we really mean "soil disinfection?"

We must realize that there are many forms of bacteria that are vitally useful in their relation to soil fertility and plant growth. Some of them break down complex substances in the soil and in fertilizers to convert them into simpler forms which the plant roots can take up as food. There are others which have a power of taking free nitrogen from the air and "fixing" it so that plants can use it. These bacteria we do not wish to destroy. It is PARTIAL STERILIZATION of soil which is requisite to success.

One way to accomplish this is through the use of heat -- by baking the soil or by treating it with hot water or steam. Baking is the easiest procedure for those with few plants. The soil should be put in a metal container, placed in an oven and left the length of time required to bake a medium sized potato. On a much larger scale a similar result may be attained by covering a plot of soil with straw or brush and keeping a hot fire over it for an hour or so. There are on the market electrical devices for heat treating small quantities of soil.



(1) The soil should be loose, dry, pulverized, and free from trash. Spread out so as not to be more than five inches deep. Sprinkle one pound of formaldehyde dust on each bushel of soil.

Sterilization by steam is more adapted to use by large greenhouses. Steam is applied through a loose tile or perforated pipe buried in the soil. One may steam sterilize soil in small quantities in a pressure cooker.

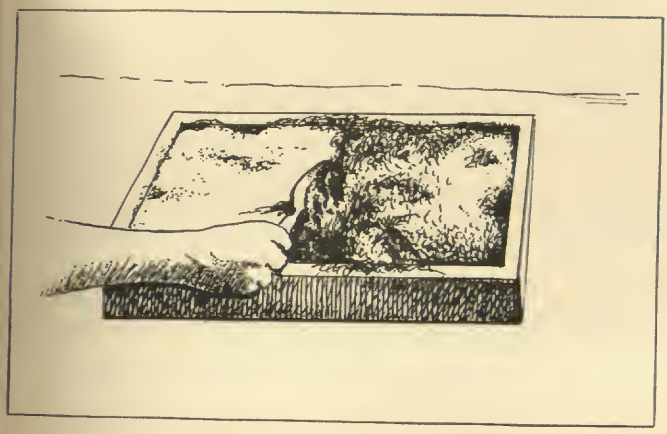
Boiling water may be applied to the soil surface to help control nematodes and fungi but it is not successful for sterilization to any appreciable depth.

Soil sterilization by chemical means is often more convenient than the above methods and various chemicals may be used for this purpose. Some of these are dangerously poisonous so that great care must be used in storing and handling them. Again, they are so extremely powerful that manufacturers' directions must be carefully followed.

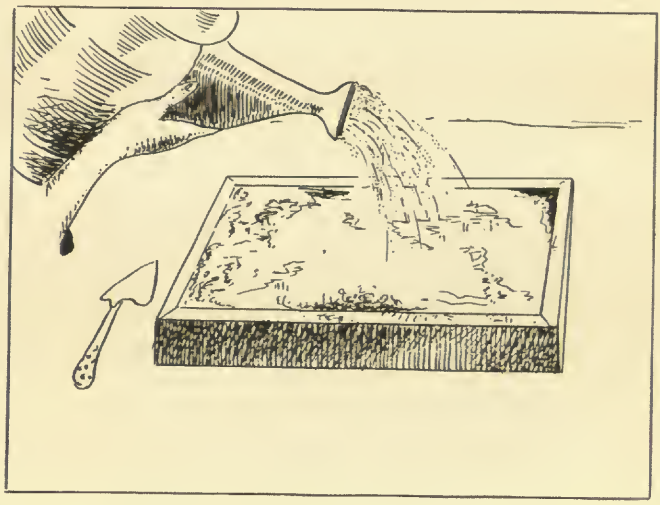
Sodium Selenate is one of the newer chemicals available. This was discussed by Professor Laurie of Ohio State University at our 1949 Cincinnati Convention. There were favorable comments by those who had already used it. It is used as follows: a solution is made of one ounce of Sodium Selenate to thirty gallons of water or approximately one gram to 3 gallons. Recommended dosage is one fluid ounce of this solution to a three inch pot or two fluid ounces to a four inch pot.

Our entomologists, plant pathologists, and chemists have recently developed what is claimed to be an outstanding soil fumigant -- Ethylene Dibromide in capsule form. Each capsule contains one-half of a cubic centimeter of Ethylene Dibromide -- one hundred percent. Properly used it is effective against nematodes and wireworms -- two most troublesome pests. Sixty-five to a hundred capsules will treat one-hundred square feet of garden area. Potting soil for indoor gardening may be treated in the same proportions. Soil is ready for use in ten days to two weeks after treatment. Do NOT use these capsules on growing plants.

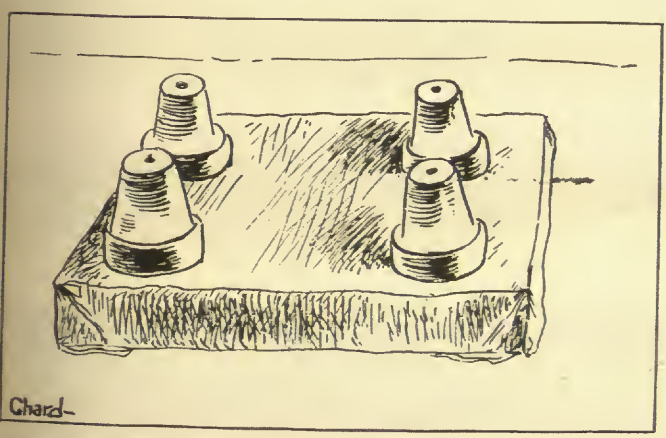
One easy and inexpensive method of soil sterilization is by using formaldehyde dust, pictured in the accompanying illustrations.



(2) Distribute the powder through the soil well by stirring or pouring several times from one container to another.



(3) Wet the surface thoroughly to dissolve the powder. This also has the effect of forming a seal to hold the fumes in the soil.



(4) The container should then be covered tightly and left covered for three days. Then remove cover and expose the soil to the air and sun. Do not use the soil until you are sure the action of the formaldehyde is completely finished. You can test this by smell. To play safe, the soil should be allowed to air until the last trace of fumes has disappeared.

A final word of warning -- treat all chemical disinfectants and sterilizers as the deadly poisons most of them are. And do not attempt to use them in any way other than that outlined by the manufacturer.

IS CALIFORNIA VIOLET CONSCIOUS?

Carolyn K. Rector, Cal.

This question came to me in a letter not long ago, and the answer to that is decidedly yes. Thanks to Clarissa Harris, and the string of Violet Societies she has organized in our part of the world, and the tireless activity of Mrs. Mackey, we have shoals of earnest inquisitors who want to learn how to grow this popular plant.

For some of us, this is not so simple as it might seem. For one thing, there is the climate, which varies a good deal in different locations. It has been said by a well-known garden writer that the climate and soil changes every three miles. Now in the part of town where I live, it is very hot and dry. On the other side of town near the ocean, it is always cool and damp. This naturally causes some serious problems to arise.

The fancier who grows a window full of violets along the sea front has to fight mildew and crown rot. In order to improve the circulation of air in the plant room, she has to turn on an electric fan at intervals and stir up the air in the house.

In our part of the city, the great problem is to provide sufficient humidity. As we have very little help from the weather, which is either hot and dry or cold and dry, depending on the time of year, we have to resort to various schemes. Many people try to humidify the room by putting a kettle of water on the heater or the radiator. In some cases this is sufficient, especially if the house is heated by steam. A good many of us depend for heat on little portable open-flame gas heaters. We have to think of a better way.

In my own case, I grew violets for several years with very little result, as far as blossoms were concerned. The plants grew large and looked healthy, but few buds ever appeared, and most of them shriveled and dropped off. Of course, I knew the air in my flat was very dry, but what I didn't know was that it made a difference to the violets.

After trying several ways to correct this condition, I finally tried one that really worked, and have since then been recommending it to others. It is very simple. In a metal window box of the right size and shape I put two inches of builder's sand, and keep it constantly moist. I had the metal-working shop make the first one, but it was quite expensive. So for the other windows I bought chick feeders of the proper length from the poultry supply store, took off the top part and threw it away, soldered the corners to make it water-tight, and painted the inside with two coats of asphalt paint. In this I put the wet sand, and set the plants on it (not in it) and it works fine, and does not cost too much. The evaporation from the wet sand goes up on the under side of the leaves where it will do the most good.

Another problem is soil. When my correspondents say in their letters, "All this fuss about soil mixtures is unnecessary - I just go out in the back yard and scrape up some soil from under the trees, and my violets grow all right," I try to be patient and remember that they do not live in California. Our soil is mostly alkaline, and has to be mixed with a number of things to make it palatable to acid-loving plants.

Then - there is water. The advice often given, to water them with rainwater, is very fine, if you can get the rainwater. We haven't had a drop of rain since March, and our total for last year was a fraction over nine inches. So where, I ask you, would we get rainwater? In most of the Southwest, the available water varies from slightly hard to very hard. Therefore, we have to water our plants occasionally with either Acidate, or a solution of vinegar and water.

We also have with us the insect population. I sometimes think there are more bugs in California than anywhere else in the United States. We have to fight aphis, thrip, scale, mealy bugs, and cyclamen mite. This means we have to sterilize all our potting soil.

It is a good thing that African violets like heat. Unless one has an air-conditioned house, it is too hot in the summer for houseplants. But, if we should set them out in the garden in the shade of a tree the snails and slugs and caterpillars would promptly eat them up. They seem to like the heat until it gets above ninety degrees. Above that the flowers fall off, though the plants do not seem to be harmed.

We do have plenty of sunlight. So much that some of us have to either shut out some of it with venetian blinds or put from one to three thicknesses of curtains on our windows to keep the violet leaves from getting cooked. Too much sun also causes the leaves to curl down over the pots.

But we do grow nice violets and plenty of them!

Practical Pointers

For Success in Growing

OF SAINTPAULIA IN THE HOME

Lina Eidt, Ohio

After five years of blundering and experimenting with considerable loss of time and money, I feel that I have at last attained a degree of success. The following points I should like to pass along to those who still may be groping for an answer to the problems which arise with growing conditions in the home.

1. Sterilize potting soil with a solution of Optox in warm water, double the strength of that recommended for spraying. I saturate the soil and use after two days.

2. Mix liberal amount of ground charcoal to soil. Larger pieces may be used for drainage.

3. Use discrimination in pulling plants apart, and when removing leaves. To help heal and to congeal the sap, I place a little flour over the spot from which the leaves or suckers are removed.

4. Water with warm rain water. This may be gathered in a barrel from downspout. I also use water which has been poured over egg-shells and let stand overnight. This is a source of calcium and gives the foliage a gloss. Never keep plant in water. The dish should be clean and there will be no springtails.

5. A real danger and the start of wilt and rot is permitting your ground to become powdery dry. If a plant needs moisture every day, I water every day depending on the size of the container.

6. Once a month loosen soil from edge of pot before watering and scrape it toward the center of your plant and make the crown firm. Then water, using Plant Marvel. At this time, I use a barber brush to remove dust from foliage.

7. For rooting leaves so they do not rot before plants are large enough to remove use a thick layer of ground charcoal, - dust and all, a layer of potting soil, and a top layer of vermiculite. I do not use drainage for these but use shallow dishes.

8. Plants purchased from greenhouses are usually pot bound in 2" pots and less to make them bloom. These I remove by using a sucker stick to keep as much ground as possible and place in a size larger pot. Over-potting is a sure cause of crown rot. Do it gradually. Too much crowding is bad but too much space is worse.

9. Do not over-fertilize plants. Good soil should take care of your plant. Why worry, if a plant is healthy and free from insect pests, whether it blooms this week or next? Good plant food is on the market and can be used in lieu of fertilizer and manure. Why crowd your plants? This may cause crown rot. Foliage is as pretty as blooms on many saintpaulias.

10. I have great success in pollination by opening the anthers with a needle, and the pollen that clings to the needle I place on the stigma of the flower to be pollinated, even if the flower has fallen.

Many articles have been written by expert growers, but I feel that I must share my experiences in the hope that I may save someone the worry I went through before arriving at the above solutions to problems arising each and every day.

AFRICAN VIOLETS
CARVED IN CRYSTAL LUCITE
Pins and ear rings, $1.75 each
Post paid, tax included, no C. O. D.s
State color, pink, white, light and dark blue
SUNNY SLOPE STUDIO
West Newberry, Mass.

Light as Air

VERMICULITE - is now made into pottery

African violet people who have long been familiar with Vermiculite as a growing medium will no doubt be pleasantly surprised to know that flower pots are now being made out of Vermiculite.

An attractive plant container is manufactured by a Georgia Company the Vermiculite Pottery, Inc. This firm is headed by Milton E. Posey, factory manager, and Herman J. Kuppers, merchandising manager, who designed and patented these new planters.

This line of pottery is both decorative and artistic as well as helpful in the growing of more beautiful houseplants. Being porous, free circulation of air is permitted to the roots, and excess moisture is absorbed . . . thereby preventing stagnation and souring of the soil. Vermiculite Pottery appears to be inlaid with flecks of gold due to the mica in its composition. It is made in 3 pastel colors blue, green, and rose.

METHOD OF LABELING AFRICAN VIOLET OR SIMILAR FLOWERS FOR BREEDING WORK, TIMING BLOOMS, ETC.

Evan Roberts, Mich.

The following paragraphs tell how to label a living flower on an African violet plant for study.

The stems of the African violet flowers are thin and while they hold up the individual flowers they cannot stand much weight. Hence, the ordinary tags with string attached do not work well because they are apt to weight the whole petiole down and may injure or break it.

Ordinary gummed labels are used for this purpose. Any gummed label that can be cut into 2" x 3/16" and which may be written on with a pencil will suffice. After the label is cut to size and has the desired writing on the side free from adhesive material, it is moistened and placed around the flower stem (pedicle) of each flower. To insure its staying in place if the plants are watered overhead, it is stapled to the pedicle. An "Ace" hand stapler (Model No. 702) designed with a metal opening for the hand is used to apply a staple to the label. The label is stapled close to the flower stem but not so close that it will injure the stem.

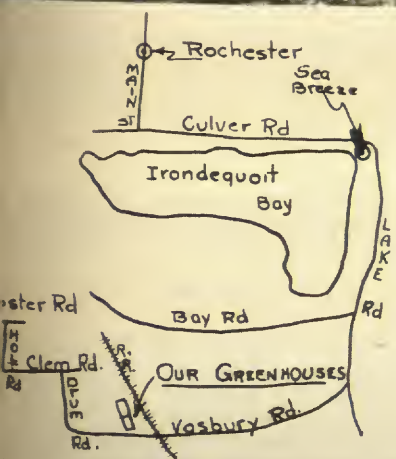
This type of label will last as long as desirable and serves its purpose very well.

PLAN TO VISIT OUR NEW

AFRICAN VIOLET DISPLAY HOUSE

THIS SUMMER

The picture will give you an idea of what you will see



We have thousands of blooming plants of what we consider to be the BETTER VARIETIES

Also a limited stock of several varieties of Episcias and Gloxinias. 3" and 4" squatty clay pots, as well as painted ones with saucers are available here

JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

2 MILES BEYOND SEA BREEZE

SORRY WE DO NOT SHIP

TRULY EVER-SPORTING

FANTASY

Sheldon C. Reed, Minn.

In reply to Mr. Behnke:

The major work on eversporting in flowering plants is that of Demerec at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y. He worked with Delphinium and found that the mutation from lavender to purple may occur at any time in the development of the plant from the seed to the last cell division in the flower. Your "Blues" from Fantasy are the ones in which the mutation from lavender to purple occurred in the seed—these plants are of no value as purple **seldom** mutates back to lavender. The tiny spot of purple in the lavender blossom means that the mutation from lavender to purple occurred just a few cell divisions back in the already formed bud.

Your single crown plant which is half pink and half Fantasy is probably due to a mutation from the eversporting lavender to pink which is not eversporting. Leaves from the pink half will give only pure pink and are therefore not valuable. Leaves from the Fantasy half will give mostly Fantasy with some useless completely purple, as is usually the case.

The effect of the Fantasy gene upon the reproductive organs is amazing. The one flower that has opened here has a stamen in place of the stigma, something I have never heard of before. I shall follow this peculiarity further.

Mrs. William K. du Pont passed away at Singapore on World Cruise

Mrs. Ethel du Pont, seventy-four widow of William K. du Pont, formerly of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., died of a heart attack at 11 a. m. March 3rd in the home of a stranger overlooking Singapore's botanical gardens. She lived in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mrs. du Pont, who left New York on January 6th on a world tour aboard the Cunard liner Caronia, was visiting the gardens when she collapsed. She was taken to the near-by home of Mrs. J. W. Ewart, where she died in the guest room that morning. She had been in good health during the cruise. When the Caronia docked Thursday, March 1st, Mrs. du Pont was among the first to go ashore.

Mrs. du Pont was accompanied on the 111-day world cruise by a relative, Mrs. Frank D. Crowninshield, of Montchanin, Delaware. Her husband was a brother of Pierre S., Irenee, and Lammot du Pont, all three of whom are past presidents of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc. Their great grandfather founded the du Pont Company. Widely known for her interest in flowers and as the originator of the du Pont strain of saintpaulias, Mrs. du Pont also had been active in many Delaware community affairs. In 1920 she became the first Delaware woman member of the Republican National Committee.

Three children and several grand children survive.

"FRIENDSHIP GARDEN"

I have a little garden,
So very dear to me,
Because it's filled with friendship flowers
And means so much to me.
Each little plant I've planted
Represents a friend,
And I will guard it kindly,
So that friendship never ends.
The rain will be my laughter
The sun will be my love
And each little tender blossom
Will be like heaven above.
So grow, Oh! grow my garden
And may your roots grow deeper
So that every passing year will find
Our friendship has grown sweeter.

Agnes J. Bott

VIOLET BOWL

Mildred Broady, Nebr.

Monthly, eager thousands join their friends in a most fascinating pastime -- that of African violet culture.

I like to think of the African Violet Society of America as a "Vast Violet Bowl" in which a thrilling game is played.

The Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl, and many other Bowls in various states draw thousands of spectators to their major sports events and festivities that are held yearly.

The "Violet Bowl" differs in that everyone and anyone may participate in the game. It is a daily, not yearly, event and it is not restricted to any particular state.

The requirements are not rigid. A player need not be athletic. To the contrary, many handicapped persons at home and disabled veterans in hospitals all over the United States are finding comfort and endless pleasure in African violet culture. They are often directed and inspired by the members of local societies who share their knowledge and plants with them.

A player need not be agile. Invalids may join actively in this sport and share the thrills of the game by telephone, correspondence, and by visits from friends. The extent of their collections is often unbelievable!

A player need not be wealthy. The most budget minded person will feel no strain on the purse strings, as no ticket is required. Many enthusiasts have built outstanding collections almost entirely thru exchange and from their own efforts at growing them.

The game need not be played individually. A husband and wife team works wonderfully. Often the children, too, develop talents in African violet appreciation at a very early age, thru observation. This interest increases greatly with the first successful attempts at growing new plants.

The game may be played by larger teams. Large clubs with their many members and friendly little groups which organize locally to become part of the National Organization, may participate and gain much pleasure and knowledge thru these efforts.

The "Violet Bowl Game" is advertised far and wide. This is done enthusiastically and generously by means of the Homing Pigeons, Round Robins, and the Grapevine.

No book of rules is required but the African Violet Magazine is an excellent guide and Helen Van Pelt Wilson's revised edition of "The African Violet" is very reliable and most helpful.

Remarkable is the fact that everyone wins in this exhilarating game. The cheers and applause of the audience are expressed by "Oh!" and "Ah!" and "Lovely!" by those who view the "favorites" -- possibly a result of the player's own success from a tiny leaf or from seeds.

The playing field has apparently no limits. With keen interest in hybridizing and making one's own crosses, the sport is daily becoming more popular. Endless possibilities are seen in the field of African violet culture.

The gates are open - the "Violet Bowl" a vast expanse, and beyond - "new horizons."

An invitation to all! Join your friends at the game!

TWO PIECE PLANTERS

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Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, Sept. Issue This Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

First, let's have a little chat before we start our questions. Several who have written me said they were hesitant about writing -- others asked that we do not publish their letters for fear their questions would sound "too stupid." Don't forget we were all beginners once and had to ask questions. So -- no matter what your violet trouble is, please feel free to write me.

And, you people who know all the answers, why don't you "do your good deed for the day?" Take a few minutes and send me your answers to the questions. A variety of answers makes it more interesting and will be appreciated.

I have had a number of inquiries for the names of patented violets. The September, 1950 issue of this magazine listed "African Violets With a Patent," but for the benefit of those who have joined since, I am listing them again:

White Lady, Blue Girl, Pink Beauty, Pink Girl, Lady Geneva, and Gorgeous.

QUESTIONS

What causes flowers to drop off right after watering?

Harry Gensemer, Ill.

I have several Blue Boy African violets. One had sixty blooms on it, and after it finished blooming, it died. The other one is about through blooming but didn't have that many blossoms. Now it looks like it is going to die, too, because it is wilting. What can I do to get it back to health?

Rose Mary Peeling, Maryland

I have read it is a good idea to pick off the little side shoots or suckers on plants. I picked off the suckers on my Pink Lady and it stopped it from blooming for several months. Also, the plant started to side shoot again, so I didn't gain anything. My plant is not a pretty shape now, as the center has a number of crowns. Please tell me the proper procedure -- to cut off the suckers or leave them alone?

Mrs. Frank E. Whiting, Mass.

Why do blossoms drop off on some plants before wilting, and not on others? Does it hurt a plant to separate it when in bloom? What makes the leaves I start in water rot?

Mrs. Otto Janch, Minn.

Would you please tell me whether you have complaints from other violet growers about their plants not blooming when their homes are heated with artificial gas? My plants bloom beautifully spring, summer and fall, but as soon as winter comes, not a bud forms. I've blamed it on the gas, but, of course, am not sure.

Mrs. Newton Stephens, Iowa

When using Sodium Selenate, should the plants be dry or moist?

In pollinating, how many seed pods is it advisable to allow to develop on plants -- both single and double crowns?

If seed pods mature, does the plant die or just take a rest after the effort of producing seed?

Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

I have a nice healthy blooming Redhead. There are leaves growing on the leaf stems between the base of the stem and the leaf. Also on several stems that were broken off, leaves are sprouting where the break occurred. I have raised sixty plants from leaves but never had anything like this before. Is this something unusual?

Katherine Lavell, Wisc.

I am having trouble with my Ionantha. The outer leaves tend to curl under. The center stalk is quite long, with leaves at the top, and an inch of stalk is quite bare with new leaves starting. The stalk is top heavy and slants to one side. Although the plant is still blooming, I think something is wrong. I repotted it about six months ago and until a month ago, it was doing nicely. Can you tell me what to do?

Mrs. Howard W. Snyder, N. Y.

ANSWERS

Mouse Trouble

To Mrs. F. E. Peterson, Mont.

From my own experience, I would say a little mouse is the guilty culprit who ate your violets. Here is what happened to me. One morning when I went into the greenhouse, I found some of my plants in a mess. Every plant in bloom on the benches had the yellow anthers off and pollen lying all over the leaves. I was sure insects could not do that much damage. The plants on the shelves had not been touched. We found a hole where the water pipe came in and set a trap, after we plugged up the hole. However, we didn't catch the mouse, as he had probably gone out and couldn't get back in. I had mice several years ago in the greenhouse, and know they can do a lot of damage.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Show Specimen Plant

To D. Ryan, Iowa

A show specimen plant is single crown, symmetrical, with good firm, clear foliage, and a good shade of green. It must be free of disease and insects, and have a goodly number of good-sized blooms.

Myrtle Radtke, Ohio

Turning Plants

To Mrs. E. Fischer

In order to have a nice symmetrical plant, it is necessary to turn your plants every few days.

From my experience, it seems to be the nature of some plants to have more rest periods than others. My Amazons and du-Ponts rest after they bloom awhile, then start in again. Some of my other plants, such as Redhead, Viking, Bi-color, Blue Boy, and many others seem never to stop blooming but have spells of slacking up some, then having bursts of blooms.

Mrs. H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Propagation Results

To Mrs. Ann Stutko, Mo.

I would say it is possible to get a pink violet when propagating a leaf from a purple violet plant, although I personally haven't had this experience. However, I have heard of this happening.

Mrs. J. Bolton, Colo.

Wobbly Plant

To Mrs. James Easson, Kans.

I know what you mean by a wobbly plant, as I too had one. Had it for almost a year. It was healthy looking but didn't grow much, didn't bloom and wobbled every time I touched it. I finally took it up and found there were hardly any roots, although they were healthy looking. I took all the soil off and touched the tip of the roots with "Rootone" and repotted it in fresh soil. I put the plant a little further down in the soil. In a few months it was firm in the soil and in bud. It is now twice as large and covered with blossoms.

Since I've used "Rootone" on the little plants that come from a leaf, I've had no more wobbly plants, as I find the "Rootone" promotes root growth. Be careful, though, not to use too much. I just barely touch the bottom of the roots.

Martha Mason, Conn.

Sucker Plants

To Mrs. Clara Van Kranken, N. Y.

It is best to take the little sucker leaves or plants off while small, in order to have a nice looking plant. However, if you have allowed them to grow, pick them off close to the main stem. These can be rooted in water and you can get nice plants. Pulling off the suckers should not affect the blooming. In fact, it should increase the blooms, as these suckers take the strength from the plant. At least, this has been my experience. When picking off the sucker, be sure to get it all clear to the main stem. Otherwise, another sucker will grow.

Mrs. E. J. Hanson, Calif.

As you know, violets behave in different ways. I had an Orchid Beauty which produced a few flowers on one stem, and then nothing but suckers for two years. Other plants all around were full of blossoms. I kept removing suckers, some when quite tiny and others about as large as blooming size plants. There was never a sign of a bud. I rooted six of the suckers, and four began producing suckers immediately. The other two had a few blossoms, then started producing suckers. So I discarded the whole lot.

Last year, I repotted a Bluebird in a too large pot, and it stopped blooming and produced suckers. Later, I started to remove them but discovered each had a bloom stalk coming, so left them on. The plant is now huge, with blossoms on all sides and all the suckers are blooming. Since then I don't waste time on plants that produce suckers and no blooms.

Mrs. Leonard Boyer, Mo.

GESNERIACEAE ARE INTERESTING

Cont. from page 11

herbs. They are commonly seen. They are divided into the Longiflora group having pear shaped tubers or rhizomes and the Grandiflora with long tubers which grow at the ends of root-like threads. Many times, these extend to the very bottom of the drainage material in the pot. Grandiflora have solitary tubers in clusters. In this group, more than one flower appears from a leaf axil.

It is doubtful if any pure species appear in cultivation. Due to much hybridization, the original red (Coccinea) types have given way to purple and lavender, the latter two predominate.

The rhizomes resemble tiny pine cones, and each little scale of the cone, watered sparingly will grow into an individual plant. Tubers form readily on leaves or stems, also flower stems in water or soil in a sunny window. A leaf may be cut at the veins and midrib with a razor blade, pinned to the soil and form tubers, or placed in water they will do the same. If the plant is allowed to become fairly dry, tubers will form in the leaf axils. One of my Achimenes forms tubers anywhere along the stem of the growing plant.

They are started in shallow boxes or pots, under about ½ inch of soil with scant watering (warm) till growth appears—Oh, yes, and bottom heat. Even growths are repotted that all may bloom at the same time. The plants are lovely in hanging baskets, flowers in such beautiful shades of pale blue, dark blue, lavenders, purple, dark rose, light pink, carmen, wine red, bright red, white, all with varied throats of yellow dotted and veined.

They like plenty of water and shade, may be forced at any time, usually are dormant during the winter.

Naegelias, may be propagated the same as Achimenes, and the Tydaeas, Isoloma, Kohleria, too, with the exception of the leaves of the latter three, which have formed roots only for me.

Isoloma tydaea means equal border. The foliages of these, Kohleria, Campanea, are much the same, a light soft green, all have the scaly rhizomes, only much larger than those of Achimenes, the Kohleria rhizomes being much the largest, with scales more sparsely set on the cone. The rhizomes, however, vary in size according to the top growth; if tall and vigorous, the increase will be generous and large under the soil.

Isoloma hirsutum has the most attractive foliage, soft to the touch, the toothed brown edges of the leaves matching the hairy furry stems and buds of the flowers; the buds are like little brown puffs. Flowers are bright red, nodding, with yellow throat dotted red, carried well and on long stems, three to four stems to a leaf axil. Some years ago I bought seed of Isoloma; these flowers were lime green with purple dots. They propagated readily from slips, but at no time did they form tubers.

Kohleria makes a coarser growth, not very showy. The flowers are wee, red, tubular, not very attractive.

Diastema pictum from seed has been so interesting and satisfactory but with one little fault—too much foliage. Very light green and stems lightly pink, the plant has an odor of rose geranium when handled. The flowers are small, white, much the shape of slipper gloxinia, with a tiny lavender dot at the tip of each petal.

Achimenes, like rhizomes, form generously and each one sprouts into a new plantlet at once. My experience is that they grow continuously with no rest period. It is a native of Colombia, South America.

Columnea gloriosa from the Merrys has been easy, though mine has not bloomed yet. One plant is in the medium in which it came, one in peat, one in ordinary soil, with slips rooted in the latter two successfully. They have the morning sun and seem to like it.

My corytholoma, meaning helmet shape, from seed, must be six or seven years old and has not bloomed, though I have seen a wee red pressed flower. It grows vigorously during the summer and promptly goes dormant in the late fall. Foliage is gray-green and resembles mint. Tubers are white and rounded, and flattened. Stem cuttings are easy, forming a tuber at each leaf joint in soil or water.

Episcias are choice trailing greenhouse plants. Some of the various foliages are metallic, that of Episcia fulgida is headed with emerald-green distinct veinings.

Episcia cupreata, is more hairy, having a coppery luster. Flowers are auxiliary, short tubed and toothed, freshly opened ones having a frosty appearance. All are easily propagated from stalaus or "strawberry" runners. One plant in direct morning sun has the richest coloring.

Many years ago, I had so many Gesneria cordindis from seed I put them in the vegetable garden. Nice orange tubers formed but as they went dormant, the tubers rotted, and now I believe it was due to the fall rains. I have a plant again and it is a favorite with very light green soft fuzzy foliage, bright red lipped flowers of unusual shape. This plant roots nicely from a basal shoot.

Haberlea and Ramondia are hardy here in Minnesota, but they do need moisture. As we had a dry summer and fall, mine probably will not do so well. Haberlea has smooth, glossy, stiff, toothed foliage and insignificant pale lavender flowers. Ramondia forms a crinkly leaved rosette somewhat the texture of a strawberry leaf, clothed in brown hairs.

Trichosporum pulchrum was not so easy, but at least mine blossomed with red un-

usual widely gaping flowers that almost startles one—as if they would bite! These plants like a warm house and slips require bottom heat to root successfully. Less water is required during the winter.

The name Trichosporum (Aeschynanthus) means seed with one or more long hairs at the end and so they are, with very fine silky hairs. Widely scattered they are found in India, Malaya, Ceylon, East Tropical Asia, and in our Tropical Americas.

Streptocarpus from the Greek word meaning twisted seed pod, very much resembles a twisted rope, and the two or three inch seed pods hold well over a thousand seeds.

The leaves resemble the polyanthus primrose and being from the Cape of South Africa, are commonly called Cape Primrose. Flowers of the hybrid types are various sizes, many of them ruffled and in the loveliest colors of blue, even navy blue, mauve, lilac, white, cream, pink, rose with throats of plain yellow, cream or varied pencilled markings of browns, deeper blues. They are carried well above the foliage, two and three to the stem, the stems growing at the base of the midrib of the leaf.

Interesting as a collector's item are those with one huge crinkly leaf. The flower stems grow directly from the midrib. Those of Streptocarpus Wendlandii are small, pale lilac and insignificant.

An old plant may be cut through with a sharp knife—cut parts dusted with sulphur and each division planted in a little mound of sand in any rich soil, watering sparingly until the plant gets adjusted. Streptocarpus enjoys warm water on the leaves. Remember, this plant has no bulbs, so keep two or three extra divisions yourself, if you have a favorite, so you won't lose it. Principal pests are thrips.

This December, Drymania has put forth foliage only after a lengthy rest period. It is a woody climber and roots easily from slips.

Achimenes tubiflora has large white potato-like tubers. Underground runners form new potatoes and it also roots readily from slips. The leaves are narrow, crinkly and have a peculiar weed odor but the long, white tubular flowers make up for this in being very sweet scented.

My plants have ordinary furnace heat in the winter and no artificial light. I believe in a greenhouse, they would grow more luxuriantly, but they are well worth growing even in the home.

Sometime in the future I would like to tell you more about Lampanea and some others that have not bloomed yet.

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(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Greetings from your new Pigeon Hint Editor. I hope that I can do the same good job that Violet Berry has done. It takes a number of good hints to fill my column. I hope that you will help me by sending those good ideas along in your Pigeons. They may be old to you, but new to someone else. Only in this way, can we all benefit from this column. I am sure that you will all cooperate. Thanks a million.

Sincerely,

Helen Pochurek

Rose Jenkins, Unit 55—When taking plants to a show - the problem arises - how to pack them without danger of leaves being broken. Take a flat board or shallow box. On this - space some coffee cans, according to the size of your plants. Allow plenty of room for leaves to spread without crowding. Nail cans down securely. Place plants in cans with nary a worry about leaves breaking.

Eleanor May, Unit 63—Take a good strong leaf with a long stem. Cut tiny notches about ½ inch apart on underside

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Rd.,

Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

of stem. Bury entire stem in ½ inch of sand or growing medium, allowing leaf to extend out beyond rim of pot. A new plant will come from each notch.

I also like to use sifted spaghnum moss for part of a mixture for starting seeds. I use equal proportions of peat, vermiculite, sand and spaghnum. Use this for the bottom of container and the straight spaghnum for the top layer making it about ½ inch thick. Plants will not damp off as they might in other mediums.

Ferne Kellar, Unit 90—To sterilize soil - 3 tablespoons of formaldehyde to a pint of water. This is sufficient to treat a bushel of soil. Put a layer of soil in container and sprinkle mixture over soil (a gadget such as is used for sprinkling clothes works fine on top of a bottle) add another layer of soil, continue until entire solution is used. Cover entirely with a heavy canvas or blanket for first days. Air for a week before using.

Marion Baker, Unit 57—A birdbath filled with ferns, wandering jew, philodendron and violets makes a lovely garden during the winter. Add a few good sized stones and moss to hold the moisture. Cover soil with a thin layer of spaghnum moss. This makes a nice addition to your picture window.

Mrs. Roy Guilfoyle, Unit 44—Sherbert glasses of different heights enable one to put pots of varying sizes in them, thus allowing leaves to spread out. Foliage will rest on edge of glass.

Mrs. R. B. Pearsall, Unit 75—Make a round apron of plastic to fit like a collar around crown of plant. It can be held securely around top of plants and pot, thus avoiding getting soil on plant when dipping in a spray solution.

Your Editor is a firm believer in spaghnum moss for violets. I like to use several pieces of broken pot in bottom of pot, arranged in such a way that water and air will circulate freely. Then - I add a layer of moss and then soil. I find plants grow much faster - the roots seem to work their way down into the moss in short order. I believe that violets also like to breathe and do much better for that reason.

Mr. H. G. Harvey, Unit 6—Start leaves in plain water - after 2 weeks change the water and add ¼ teaspoon of Hyponex to a quart of water. Two weeks later, change water again - this time using 1 teaspoon Hyponex to a quart of water. Leaves will root faster by this method.

FROM THE EDITOR'S MAIL

We use a cement mixer to mix our soil and it does a fine job.

Martha Mears

When the parent leaf dies before it should, very small plants may sometimes be saved if a small drinking glass is inverted over them. The extra warmth and humidity the glass provides is most beneficial.

Fay Wilcox

Be sure soil is not too heavy (loose, so it will drain well). Plants will grow in any window in the house, provided it is warm, some protection given from sun, and you don't over water them. I always water with warm water. Water will not spot the leaf unless it is cold water.

Violets like cleanliness. Give them a good, warm bath some night.

Feed them a little, but after they set bud.

Water a violet well, and then don't water again for two or three days.

Mildred Wilson

Try planting your African violets in paper pots set inside of a pretty glazed one. One member reports good success that way. You don't have to water your violets often, and yet you must not have the soil soggy.

Kay Duerstling

My plants were losing their lower leaves. At first I tried the aluminum foil, but it didn't seem to hold very well. I liked the idea of the paraffin, but could hardly see my way clear to repot all my plants which I would have to do if I dipped them in melted paraffin solution. My brother-in-law suggested that I melt the paraffin then take a small paint brush and apply it to the rims of the pots.

Annabel Hilliard

A good soil mixture may be made of equal parts of leaf mold and garden loam mixed with a little sand. This should provide the light earth in which saintpaulias will flourish. Then to each 4 inch pot full of soil, add a teaspoon of bone meal or 5-10-5 fertilizer as a good preliminary feeding.

Dalene Rhodes

GLADYS CANNER

Creek Rd. Rt. 1,

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Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

While iron from rusty nails buried in the pot could not harm plants, it is probably not helping, as the iron oxide isn't soluble or readily available as it would be in a complete commercial plant food.

Boyce Edens

Leaves may root any time, but make fastest growth and come into bloom sooner if rooted during growing months of March, April and May. Use rain water for rooting leaves.

Solange Slivka

Ammonium Sulphate and Nitrate of Soda are good sources of readily available nitrogen. Nitrogen is one of the greatest helps in boosting growth of plants.

Helen Farnham

Peat moss may be either acid or alkaline and should be tested before using.

Pauline Wyland

Try using aluminum foil in 1½ inch strips doubled, around the top of your African violet plants to prevent over-lapping leaves from becoming damp. It is moisture proof and really does the trick.

Bertha Richter

When placing leaves in the rooting medium, I cut a small strip of adhesive tape and write the name on it, then stick it across the leaf. It is a simple way to identify the different varieties.

Mrs. W. E. Ray

One half alcohol and one half water spray will kill mealy bugs and dries from the plant quickly.

One cup flowers of sulphur added to one bushel of soil will kill worms.

Louise Smouse

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LET'S VISIT

Cont. from page 25

ing the name and put aside to "heal" while the jars are being prepared. Leaves are inserted in the mixture with the stems next to the glass and visible from the outside. They are supported by wooden plant markers. (Placing the leaves in this fashion makes it possible to notice any stem that has started to rot and take necessary action immediately. It also affords a view of the development of roots and plantlets long before they appear above the surface.) The battery jars are then placed under the benches near the small windows. Perfect, isn't it?

From the above, one would imagine that we entered on hands and knees, which was not the case. This did make a lasting impression with us, though, and is naturally one of the first things we recall.

The greenhouse is about 8 feet by 12 feet and contains, in addition to the usual benches, three rows of shelves containing about 70 large and beautiful plants. (We had to take Maxine's word for this count, for we usually get mixed up at about 24, because we see something special about three plants down that must be commented upon or seen more closely.) About 1000 plants are in the benches, ranging from small "clumps" just removed from the battery jars, to plants of blooming size. It is truly a beautiful sight.

Clumps from the terrariums are potted into 2 and one-quarter inch pots when the plants reach a height of about one inch. When they reach two inches the parent leaf is removed and returned to the jar for re-rooting, and (another wrinkle) the cut end remaining with the clump is dusted with sulphur to prevent, or lessen, the danger of rot. When the plants are considered large enough for division, they are potted separately into 2 and one-quarter inch pots and later transferred into the three inch size.

"The violet bug is biting my husband, too," Maxine said. (We prefer to say that he is being "educated".) As the greenhouse is about 30 feet from the house, it was considered impracticable to pipe hot and cold water that distance, so the filling of the oil tank and the carrying of warm water became the gentlemanly task of Mr. Wangberg. This entering and re-entering of the greenhouse eventually impressed upon him the beauty of a plant or two at a time, until he has become quite familiar with many varieties. In time, a desire was developed for more and more knowledge. The Wangbergs are indeed fortunate, for the happiest families are those which share a mutual hobby.

It is with reluctance that we take our leave, and, at the crossroads, we wonder where we will find another collection to visit that will compare with what we have just seen.

"The Visitors"

MRS. CONIBER'S COLLECTION

Cont. from page 31

you will find over a thousand plants, and many more leaves in the process of being rooted.

Colors range from shades of deep purple to a light gray blue, from pink to deep ruby, as well as white. Blooms are single, double, small as a dime, or as large as a silver dollar. The foliage varies greatly too, for some plants have thick, sturdy leaves, and other varieties have shiny leaves, hairy leaves or scalloped ones. Some plants have naturally long, reaching leaf stems, and others form small, compact plants, each peculiar to the variety or type.

Names, too, are interesting, Blue Boy, Red Head, Gray Lady, Heavenly Blue, Double Duchess, Blue Eyes, Pink Lady, etc.

No house plant has increased in popularity so fast in recent years. Its colors are lovely, its foliage clean, and decorative; and it will grow well, and bloom almost endlessly under conditions in the average home.

The first National African violet show was held in 1947, and since that time, the information and records show over 225 named varieties, and this is increasing constantly.

One of the nicest plants in Mrs. Coniber's collection is Fantasy. This new variety is a light lavender pink blossom, rayed, splashed, or dotted with deep purple, and seldom are two blooms alike. The "Fringette" is another new and different variety, of delight to all growers.

On a trip to Florida in 1949, Mrs. Coniber visited several large growers, bringing home as her souvenirs, new varieties of African violets purchased of growers in Georgia and Ohio. Trips to nearby Pennsylvania growers, and those in New York state have yielded still more varieties such as the newest doubles and some of the Gypsy strains.

The African Violet Magazine makes it easier to keep in touch with other African violet hobbyists, to know sources of supply, as well as furnishing news of the latest finds.

One that particularly interests this writer, is the "Old Lace" variety. This miniature plant with scalloped leaves, compact growth of foliage, but with towering flowers high above the flat small leaves, is truly delightful. Its slow growth only makes the anticipation of its bloom last longer, and gives one a feeling of real achievement.

Mrs. Coniber finds her hobby has given her many new friends and acquaintances while attending the 1949 and 1950 exhibits of the African Violet Society in Rochester, and at hobby clubs. She has also spoken at garden clubs, and visitors to her home come from many states.

Yes, there is even fan mail. The hobbyists have Pigeon and Round Robin letters, and correspondents live in Alaska, Vermont, North Dakota, Michigan, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, California, and New York State.

Truly, those who are interested in this plant will be thrilled when they visit the Coniber home. I have never been there without finding hundreds of plants in bloom, in every size, shape, and color.

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JUST MY OPINION

OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Martha Seefeldt, Ill.

In my opinion, too many people think the African violet is a "touch-me-not." They seem to be almost mortally afraid of it and when they get near a plant they step sideways for fear of touching it.

Our plants are tough! Maybe they have to be, who knows. But they all look most happy. We have them at the east windows, the north windows, the south and west windows; even at the west door. We have them in the pantry, the kitchen, living, and dining room. We have them on the dining room table, on the sewing machine, and a lovely big Purple Prince on top of an old fashioned coffee grinder, the kind one used to see in all the old country grocery stores. It is painted a Chinese red with black.

We have two shelves full at the double north kitchen windows and they love it, bacon grease, sauerkraut and all. They have been blooming for months and still more buds are coming. The foliage on all the plants is a lush and healthy green. Orchid Beauty, Double Blue Boy. Frieda, Cleveland Amethyst, Blue Butterfly, Pink Beauty, White Lady, Neptune, Blue Boy, Blue Bird, Blue duPont, No. 32, Red duPont, Royalty, Old Lace, Viking, Purple Prince, Ice Blue, Mentor Boy, Lady Geneva, and a Dominican Minute Begonia, are on these shelves and they show such a variety of coloring.

The dining room boasts Ruffles. Viking, Double Margaret, Double Mary Wac, Double Neptune, Red Head, Red Head Girl, Blue Girl, Purple Prince, Blue Eyes, Waterlily, White Lady, Pink Beauty, Double Blue Boy (a very good bloomer), Rose Purple, Amarantha, Red Girl Hybrid, Blue Girl Hybrid, Pink Amazon, Von Detrich, Commodore, Dainty Maid, Blue Compacta, Low Cluster Blue, Norseman, Blue Butterfly, Jessie, Purple Beauty, Lavender Pink Amethyst, Red King, Sailor Boy, Sunset Pink, Orchid Girl, Sapphire Blue, Wild Rose, Episcia cupreata, several begonias, and a big Fischer's Ricenifolia Begonia as a center piece on the dining room table (no need to say we eat in the kitchen). The exposure here is north and west.

In the living room we have Ionantha, Orchid Two-tone, a large Viking, White Lady, Large Blue Boy from 1946, Red Amazon, Purple Beauty, a Calla Begonia, table ferns, Pic-a-Back plant, Geynuca, Tubiflora, Episcia veridifolia, Americana Northiana, Yellow edged Sanseveria, variegated Philodendron in a bird cage (try this idea, it is quite pretty). A Crown of Thorns is also among these plants. The exposure here is south and west.

In the pantry, with a north and west exposure, we have our baby plants, some in their seed bed and others in small pots. Also in there, we have a Blue Bird, Ruffles, Blue Girl, a young Episcia cupreata, and some Begonias.

Then we have pots and pots of African violets in all stages of growth on an east porch. Here, too, we have several dozen small pots with Gesneria plantlets which have grown from seeds; also some small Begonia plantlets which were too small for the lath-house.

We keep our plants a little on the dry side, the top soil being quite dry to the touch. The larger pots of violets each have their own dish or saucer and we try to water each plant daily. Only about an inch of water is poured into each saucer daily but they surely do bloom for us. About once every two weeks, we water them with vitamin B-1. Two tablespoons of this mixture is put in a watering can to each quart of water.

About once a month all plants get a drink of cow manure tea. In summer we use the water as it comes from the cistern. In winter we keep a bucket of rain water on each floor register. The evaporation keeps the rooms full of moisture, and we use the water as it warms on the registers to water the plants. Neither of us has had a cold for the past three winters, due, no doubt, in part to the moist air through the house.

Our potting soil is equal parts of garden soil, sand, dry cow manure (broken up in chunks), a cup of powdered charcoal, and the same of bone meal. We never bake or sterilize the soil and have very good success with our plants.

We have had a few African violet plants that looked a little tired and unhappy. These I removed from the pot, scraped all roots from the main stem, removed a few bottom leaves and put in a glass or dish of pure rain water. After three or four weeks a lovely, healthy root formation grew and I repotted in the potting soil, set them in a pan of water, and allowed the soil to become wet through but not soggy. We gave Double Blue Boy a new lease on life that way and potted it up a few days ago and it is covered with blossoms now. It was full of buds while in the water.

For a rooting medium we use soil made damp and kept covered until plants with four tiny leaves have formed on the parent

plant. Then the pots are soaked through and not watered again until the soil has thoroughly dried out. Some leaves propagate much faster than do some others.

We do not force our plants to bloom or grow plantlets with any commercial food or forcer. We, as farmers, believe in letting nature take her course. Nor do we move them from one place to another. They have to sit where they are set and like it.

The windows are kept open about four or five inches to the south and west all day. The north and east windows are opened wide. The awnings protect the plants from the direct sun. At night the windows are opened wide and you can see small dew drops on the plant leaves in the morning. We have hot days but nearly every night we have a heavy dew, which the plants seem to like.

Although we do not neglect our plants we do not baby them either; and we enjoy loads of African violet blooms all year long.

I hope soon to put a shelf up against a solid west wall of the lath house and will place a board over it for a roof. I will try to grow some plants in that exposure. We sprinkle the Begonias twice a day, which keeps the humidity quite high, and this should be an asset to the violets.

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Cyclamen Mite

Phyllis Ferrall, Mich.

Do be watchful for symptoms of mites! If the crowns of your plants show curly leaves when they shouldn't be curly, or if the petioles are twisted and stunted, and the bloom stalks don't care to grow up out of the crown properly — beware! It will save you a heartbreaking experience.

I will never get another new plant if it isn't possible for me to isolate it until all possible danger of infection is over. Once I lost over 40 of my very special varieties . . . with mites.

Mrs. Peck from Union City, Michigan very generously helped me treat my remaining plants. I used 100% D.D.T. in a liquid form. It was purchased from the Watkins dealer and used according to the manufacturer's directions on the bottle. First remove all distorted leaves and crowns before spraying plants. Repeat in 7 days.

If you suspect your plants do not look as they usually do, don't wait too long before treating them.

African Violets

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ADVICE IN VERSE

LeBerta Morgan, Tenn.

One of the cleverest things to come to our attention is an innovation on the part of Agnes J. Bott of Bath, Pa.

Mrs. Bott, like many violet enthusiasts, derives great pleasure in sharing her plants with friends from time to time, or in taking one to a sick friend or one who has had a bereavement. What could bring more cheer to one who is ill or bereaved than a blooming saintpaulia? However we are all familiar with the question put to the donor—"How shall I take care of it?"

Mrs. Bott solved this question in this manner: She took two pieces of purple and one of cream-colored kindergarten paper which she cut out in the shape of a violet blossom. The purple cut-outs were colored yellow in the center with crayon, and served as front and back covers to the cream-colored sheet. Two holes were punched on the left side and tied with purple ribbon. The center, or cream-colored sheet, contained directions for caring for the plant. Mrs. Botts' cut-out violet measured 11½ inches long and 9 inches wide, with the following typed directions inside:

Directions For An African Violet

You can have fun and watch me grow,
I'm started from a leaf, you know.
I like the light, but not too much sun,
Or my leaves will turn yellow,
And soon I'll be done.

You can water me either from top or below,
I think about every third day or so.
I really prefer my drink from below,
As it helps prevent crown-rot and root-rot
You know.

I don't like a cold bath,
Just luke-warm will do,
And I'll bet this also holds true
For you.

When I've had enough water
I'll be moist on the top,
Take me out of my bath,
Or I'll be a flop.

Another reminder, for me, if you please,
Wash my leaves with warm water,
So that I can breathe.
Then, as each of my little flowers drop
Pinch off the pistillate right at the top.

If you follow these rules
I'm sure you will know
At least, the earthly things
That make me grow!

WARNING

Sometimes mealy bugs gather
In no time at all,
Take a toothpick and dip it
In some alcohol.

Touch each little white spot
Wherever they be
And kill these small insects
Before they kill me.

Many growers of saintpaulia will realize what a clever set of directions Mrs. Bott uses, and doubtless many of our "pen women" members will get to work along poetical lines. Typed directions, of course, take a great deal of space, but for those who can print well, the size of the cut-out violet could be reduced, which would facilitate handling by the recipient.

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IN

VERMICULITE PLANTERS

Violet Grower Says:

Some months ago Mr. James Jackson, Editor of the Garden Page of the Kansas City Star gave me one of your six inch Vermiculite pots and asked me to try it out and see how I liked it. To be frank I didn't feel I would care for it because it had no drainage, but strange as it may seem I find the African Violet grown in it is beautiful. The flowers seem larger but the most amazing feature is that the leaves lying on the rim of the pot do not deteriorate in the least. For an African Violet grower that point is most important.

Mrs. George F. Pendleton
403 West 68th Street
Kansas City 5, Mo.

Begonia Grower Says:

As I told you I planted Tuberous Begonias and Gloxinias in all the Vermiculite pots I purchased from you. These plants are very fussy about water. They must never be dry or water soaked.
I raised the most beautiful flowers I ever had. One Begonia—very short and stocky with big dark green leaves—bore three enormous blossoms at one time.
I have a colored film being developed of this plant. I yet have several Gloxinias to bloom and I shall photograph them later.

Mrs. A. G. Nye,
14 Colony Road
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ATLANTA GEORGIA

VIOLETS IN TIERS

Cont. from page 22

(which were to lengthy anyway) for making a picket fence.

From these, after putting on three coats of white paint to cover up the original green stain, I sawed the pickets which are one inch wide by four and one-half inches long. These are tacked at the lower edge with thumb tacks to a horizontal lath, which, in turn is fastened to the table edge with very small nails. The thumb tacks also serve as decoration. The tops of the pickets are held stationary by kite strings which are twisted together between the pickets, and drawn taut. Believe it or not, it took just 21 dozen thumb tacks, minus two, which is 250 pickets to make the fence.

The sizes of the tables are: bottom one, 5 feet by 24 inches; middle one, 4½ feet by 20 inches; and top one, 4 feet by 16 inches. The legs are all 15 inches long. I can put five rows of 3 inch pots in the lower table, 4 rows in the middle one, and 3 in the top one, with room to spare, if the plants are no larger than year old plants.

Perhaps you, like others, wonder how I can get at 125 plants to water them all. The pans below simplify that. I merely choose an evening for watering, use a two quart toy sprinkling can and give them a sprinkling of warm (room temperature) rainwater from above, for, after all, aren't they watered from the clouds in their natural habitat? By morning the plants are dried off, there is plenty of humidity from the small amount of water in the pans, and the sun doesn't hurt them one bit, to say nothing about the bright, clean leaves they have. With a thermometer and humidity indicator (all in one) hanging on the fence of the top table I am able to judge how often to water. When the furnace is going, I can keep the humidity up to only 45° to 55°, but through the summer, the humidity was around 70° most of the time, so I knew I shouldn't water so often or so much as before.

Just to see the many blooms on these plants is testimony as to how happy my violets are in their tier-tables. They were all young plants when the tables were ready for them last April. The only time there is cause for t-e-a-r-s is when a leaf gets caught on a picket and breaks off, which doesn't happen very often.

GROWING SHOW PLANTS

Cont. from page 28

Be careful to always keep all suckers off of plants. I use the point of a lead pencil or a small pointed object for pushing them off. The earlier you remove them the better it is for your plant. Judges always disqualify multiple crown plants or plants with suckers.

Give your plants all the light possible and even sun in winter and early spring, so long as it does not turn the foliage yellow, as light helps increase bloom, also the size of the bloom. Be very careful not to burn foliage, as burned foliage will also disqualify your plant.

I had a misfortune befall my plants exactly one month before the show which required my removing all my blooms and most of the buds. I felt that all hopes of having any show plants were gone, but being a "die-hard", I began fertilizing heavier using Dixco and sheep tea. The sheep tea, as you know, is a weak solution made by pouring boiling water over pulverized sheep manure. This is allowed to steep for awhile and then poured off and diluted until it is about the color of weak ice tea. Ordinarily, I use one the first of the month and the other the middle of the month. This time, I used the Dixco twice as strong as I ordinarily would, using one tablespoon per gallon of water, then waiting about a week longer, I used the tea again and in about another week I used the Dixco, this time using one teaspoon per gallon of water. My plants were full of bloom and lovely for the show. The Dixco helps so much, especially the foliage.

Since my plants are in a small greenhouse, it might not work on plants in your home, but I feel it would. You might try it on a plant or two to see how it would do. My greenhouse is on the dry side, not damp and humid, as it is a lean-to.

Plants should be kept sprayed regularly as it not only makes a nicer looking plant but helps prevent disease and makes for a healthier stronger plant. I use Wonder Spray, spraying about once per month.

Always remove all old yellowed, broken leaves and old bloom stalks before entering in show.

Some of the members of our club have such lovely plants that I feel they deserve a special word. Mrs J. C. (Bobby) Bamford entered ten plants and won nine ribbons, seven of which were blues. Bobby has outstanding success with her plants, which are grown in a southern exposure in winter and northern in summer. Her Blue Girl which won as largest plant in show was also the second best plant.

Our president, Mrs. Orville (Elizabeth) Maddux (in picture), had fourteen entries and won thirteen ribbons. Her plants were lovely and she grows her violets in a northern and eastern exposure.

Mrs. Alex (Alice Wray) Taylor's Congo Queen with only about four leaves and a stalk of blooms created quite a bit of excitement. It won first prize as the smallest blooming plant. Alice Wray is interested also in dwarfs and her Dwarf Orchid won first in that class. Alice Wray's exposure is south and west, which proves you can grow a lovely show plant with proper care in any exposure.

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Cont. from page 29

trol the glare from the ocean and the sun light, by using perpendicular redwood slats which are adjustable on the exterior, to the south, east and west. On the inside she uses plastic and marquisette curtains. The first shelf, just below the windows, is about two feet wide, and above are two twelve-inch shelves on three sides of the room. In the center is a three tiered table about forty inches wide, the next tier is about twenty-four inches, the top about eighteen inches wide, and about eight feet long. On the top, leaves are rooted in colored bottles of water, that being the warmest place. The middle tier is used for the first planting of the rooted leaves in growing mixture in two inch pots. The table top is used for the plants after dividing, later moving them to the window shelves. This way they are gradually brought down into cooler temperature and stronger light. I have never seen anyone grow more beautiful saintpaulias, nor so rapidly. The humidity and cool ocean breeze evens the temperature so they have a green plush texture and very large blooms.

Genevieve has had a few real thrills in propagating, about ten variegated foliage plants, three having a lot of pink in with the ivory shadings. Two years ago her variegated Hearts Desire, which was very outstanding, won a Blue Ribbon Award. Another was a Supreme Mentor Boy which took First Section Award. Now she has one that is "breath taking." This sport will put California on the African violet map with other states producing unusual varieties. She grew a beautiful red violet from a leaf given to her by a friend and everyone admired it so, she put leaf after leaf down so all of us could have one, and one day, to her surprise, one of the plants opened very dark, and as it unfurled, it was tri-colored. When it first opens, it is about two shades darker than V.R.I., the eye holds that color and some of the splashes. The bloom fades slightly, the top petals stay darker than V.R.I., the three lower petals are R.V.2., the light splashes and streaks are like Tinted Lady, V.B.6. It is a perpetual bloomer, with light green leaves which are heart shaped, slightly quilted, troughed, and serrated. The plants have an upright growth of medium size. It makes me think of a dignified lady dressed in maroon velvet with light blue accessories. Genevieve has named it for her brown eyed daughter, Dorlene, who has been a Blue Ribbon grower in the Junior Division.

I contribute Genevieve's success to two things, first for her generosity, and second because she loves her violets for what they are—not for awards. The Marshes and their violets live happily together in their "Violet Paradise by the Sea."

AFRICAN VIOLET TROUBLE IN CONNECTICUT

Cont. from page 21

ward again, feeding on the roots until late May, when they develop into the bug stage. When changing from larvae to bug they are first white in color, then brown, then black and are about a quarter of an inch in length, with short blunt snouts. The adult begins to emerge when the very early strawberries begin to ripen. In addition to wintering over in the larvae stage, the adults may also winter over under trash and in strawberry crowns. These weevils are all parthenogenetic in habit, being all of the female sex, and all lay eggs. One thing to be thankful for is that they cannot fly, so only get from one place to another on foot or by being carried on infected stock or in soil.

I have had friends in several different parts of the State tell me they found these weevils on their violets during the summer and the Experiment Station had many telephone calls during July and August from various parts of the State reporting them being found in houses. Here in my home they disappeared the latter part of August just as suddenly as they appeared in July. I kept one alive in a jar for about three weeks to show friends who were coming to my home to talk African violets, during which time it ate almost all of two African violet leaves and started on a third before passing on to bug heaven.

At the time of writing these comments, the middle of November, I am still finding young plants suddenly becoming limp as though they had crown rot, but on taking them out of the soil and examining the crown I find that the outside has been almost completely girdled around at soil level and is rotting away, most of the root system having an unhealthy appearance, but the inside of the crown is still green and healthy and re-roots readily. So far I have been unable to find any indication of eggs or larvae in the soil that these plants have been grown in, but as I have only a small hand magnifying glass, it is quite possible the eggs were there without my detecting them, but I am sure I would have found the larvae had they been present. I only found these weevils in windows on our first floor. Down in the basement where they could most readily get in I did not find one, so it may be they do not care for the artificial light from my fluorescent lights.

One of the controls recommended by the Experiment Station as being most effective is either Chlordane 48% Emulsion, 16 teaspoons to one gallon of water; or Chlordane dust, 1 lb. 50% dust to 1 gallon of water; using enough to moisten the surface soil around infested plant. Due to there having been such a big demand for this insecticide, I have not yet been able to obtain a supply to use on our evergreens, but as soon as it is available I intend to try it on an African violet to test whether it will have any adverse reaction.

I am very much indebted to Mr. E. M. Stoddard and Mr. J. P. Johnson, both of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, for their kind assistance in supplying me with much of the information contained in this article.

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Take most of the "messing" out of sending leaves by mail. $1.00, each, ppd.

ALSO AVAILABLE
Vemiculite, peat moss, Optox spray, Vitamin B1, pots, wicking, Hyponex and NuPhosK fertilizers, Rootone (and other plant hormone products), iron sulphate (to make soil acidic), limestone chips (for tray bottoms, aid evaporation and humidity control), talc for blending insecticides and fungicides, napthalene flakes, complete line of DuPont Garden Products (of special interest to people in the West who see them advertised in national magazines but can't get them locally), etc., etc. Write for prices. What else do you need?

Patronize your local suppliers of African violets who handle any of these products. My aim is to make available by mail things that aren't obtainable locally. Dealers wanted on many of above items.

I don't sell plants or leaves. But if you do, either from home windowsill or commercial greenhouse, let me know. I will be glad to mention the fact in business correspondence going into your region.

NEIL C. MILLER
Layton's Lake
PENNS GROVE, N. J.

SIGNS of the ZODIAC

Charlotte Hughes, W. Va.

Dates to follow are: January 1, 27 and 28; February 23, 24 and 25; March 23 and 24; April 19 and 20; May 17 and 18; June 13 and 14; July 10 and 11; August 6, 7 and 8; September 3, 4 and 30; October 1, 28 and 29; November 24 and 25; December 21, 22 and 23.

Some interesting facts about our almanacs are:

Any one using John Baer's Almanac of Lancaster, Pennsylvania should follow those dates, as it has been calculated for the meridian of Pennsylvania and adjoining states. These dates are two days earlier than this chart given above.

January 17th was Poor Richard's anniversary and much information was given besides that about the weather.

Many a farm wife in early days set her clock by the rising or setting of the sun. The almanac also told the farmer how to raise healthy chicks, how to get rid of rats, and how to stay awake in church -- (hold one foot off the floor). It also told his wife how to make cheese, remove grease stains, physic the cat -- (put medicine on the fur where it will be licked off).

Of course, many of the hints the Mr. and Mrs. already knew, but they still enjoyed reading them again because they liked the witty style of Poor Richard. . "If Jack's in love he's no judge of Jill's beauty! . . . The most exquisite folly is made of wisdom spun too fine . . . . . He that pursues two hares at once, does not catch one and let t'other go" . . . . . as written by Benjamin Franklin in his Poor Richard.

The old Farmer's Almanac has been published in New England without interruption since 1792. At one stage, in preparation of its 1816 edition, a prediction for July 13th was lacking and the typesetter improvised "rain, snow and hail," expecting the editor to make the proper correction on the proof. The prediction was changed to "dull" ... and when July 13th came, it rained, snowed, and hailed!

Similar in pattern, the Hagerstown Town and Country Almanac dates it's operation from 1797. In 1874 it predicted and produced snow on the 4th of July.

A VIOLET TEA

Cont. from page 17

It was a splendid opportunity for women from a radius of fifty miles to get together with others sharing the same interests, and to talk over mutual problems and processes. There were about one hundred and seventy-five blooming plants on display of about sixty different varieties.

Mrs. Harland's violets seem never to stop blooming, and her blossoms are consistently and unusually large. Some of them have measured as much as two inches and more across the widest part of the bloom. Her own opinion seems to be that the soil she uses is largely responsible, although most of her friends aver that "she just has a way with violets." She lives in the country, and periodically makes trips to a near-by wood, where she secures earth, preferably from near a rotting stump of a long-dead tree. She mixes this with some well rotted cow manure, but warns that unless the manure is old and well rotted, it will burn the delicate roots of the violet plants. She adds a little peat moss and sand to this mixture, and — she declares — that's all she does except to water them when they need it, giving a little plant food now and then in soluble form.

In regard to watering, Mrs. Harland advises the "finger-tip" method to learn when the plants are thirsty. If you feel no moisture, then water them, but if the top soil is damp to the touch, no water is needed. Always use warm water, and she prefers to water from below, keeping plants on the dry side rather than too wet.

As for blossoms, Mrs. Harland seems to think that plants produce more blossoms if kept in small pots, and her violets are certainly a standing advertisement of her methods. Some people prefer one crown plants only; Mrs. Harland has many one crown plants and some large and showy multiple crown plants. Both kinds are flourishing, and both seem beautifully symmetrical, so it seems to be a matter of choice — and perhaps skill.

Those fortunate enough to be able to attend the tea remember it with distinct pleasure as a wholly unique event in the annals of African violets. It is an idea that might well be followed by other enthusiasts, for it fosters valuable knowledge on the care of violets, as well as invaluable and enduring friendships.

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MARY MEEDS

Box 1444, Youngstown, Ohio

THREE OUTSTANDING VARIETIES FOR EVERY ONE'S COLLECTION.

LACY GIRL, GYPSY ALMA GIRL GYPSY PINK

Gypsy Alma Girl has beautiful bronze foliage with blush reddish spot at the base of the leaf which blends into the leaf making it rich in color, which carries through the blossom. The lower petals are a pale orchid, the top petals shading deeper with a very deep tip, making the flower and the foliage a beautiful combination.

Gypsy Pink is very deep pink, flowers are of a heavy texture and stay on a longer length of time

Lacy Girl and Gypsy Alma Girl, $3.00 each or 2 for $5.00. Gypsy Pink $2.50 each or 2 for $4.00

AN INVITATION TO YOU!

Welcome to the greenhouse 9 to 5 P.M. — located at 2023 Belmont Avenue on Route 90 north of Youngstown.

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MANY OTHER HOUSE PLANTS

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

Over 175 Varieties
Visitors always welcome
Located midway between
Buffalo and Rochester
We do not ship

MRS. ELROY E. CONIBER

16 Richmond Ave.
Batavia, N. Y.

LOW HUMIDITY CAUSES FAILURE

By the Editor

The first summer I had a green house, my plants began to look dried out as soon as the real hot weather began. Summer time is warm in Tennessee! The hot sun beat down on the roof until my little greenhouse was more like an oven than a place to grow plants. The ceiling is low, and it can get dry and hot inside very quickly. Humidity seemed non-existent.

One evening when I was feeling "mighty low," a friend who had successful greenhouse called me to inquire about my violets. I had to tell her that they were awful . . . that they had apparently started to dry up, as all the firm green appearance and crisp feeling had gone out of the foliage. They had almost stopped blooming and what flowers I did have were small and ratty looking. "I knew," I said, "that something bad was wrong with my greenhouse, and I was sorry that I had ever put my plants in it."

My friend said that she believed she could make some suggestions that would help, because the first summer that she had her greenhouse she, too, had trouble. Her advice, when followed, removed my little greenhouse from the failure into the pleasure class.

Humidity Increased

Inside the greenhouse it was recommended that I place 3 inches of river sand over the floor. Over this was placed finely crushed lime stone. It was piled a foot deep under the benches. Then the floor (the stones and sand) was wet down thoroughly. What a difference the cooler, damper air made! Before this, I always wet the floor down both night and morning, but it didn't hold the moisture very long. Now the moisture stayed.

On the benches galvanized pans 3 inches deep were filled with a coarse grade of vermiculite to a depth of 2 inches and over this was placed an inch of crushed stone. When this was wet down and the plants placed on the stones, the humidity was increased at their level.

Humidiguide

With the purchase of a Humidiguide to record the inside humidity, a close check could be kept on the rise and fall of the moisture content in the greenhouse. When the humidity fell below average, the floor was wet down and the inside sprayed with the hose.

Watering

The way the plants were watered played an important role in my attempts to increase the humidity at this hot dry time. Watering was done in the early morning hours when the temperature was low. Plants watered on a rising temperature are dry before evening, and they can enjoy the slow evaporation all day. My violets just loved this. They grew husky and the leaves again had that firm, shiny, green, healthy look.

My method of watering from June thru September is with the garden hose. Twisting the nozzle until a fine spray comes thru, I shower the plants about 8 o'clock in the morning approximately every other day, depending on how hot and dry it is and whether they need watering or not.

Shade Was Necessary

More shade was recommended to keep the greenhouse cooler. To cut down on the hot sunlight, five layers of tobacco cloth were placed over the roof and sides. Each afternoon about 3 o'clock, when the day is hottest and driest, this tobacco cloth was sprayed with the hose. The result was that the greenhouse seemed to be cooled down quite a lot within a short while.

Before one month, from the date of this helpful conversation, had passed, my saintpaulias took a new lease on life, and began to look as they should look.

Let the Moon and Stars

Guide You in Growing Violets

Florence Allen, Ohio

During the past year, I have been advocating "sign planting" in violet culture to the members of my pigeon group No. 43.

In the Bible we find the following regarding this subject: "Let there be light to divide the day from night; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years." Gen. 1:14. "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose; a time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted." Eccl. III:1-8.

Every one has heard of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Many scientists express the belief that the stars control man's destiny, some never undertaking anything of importance without ascertaining if the "stars" are favorable. Each constellation, besides controlling certain parts of the body, has wet or dry tendencies, barren or productive, and masculine and feminine characteristics. In order to escape the barren sign, I find planting best done during the signs of Scorpio, Pisces, Taurus or Cancer - all fruitful signs. Since Libra represents beauty in form or color, it is best for flowers. Seeds should be planted during the first quarter of the moon, unless seeds from the plant are desired, in which case planting should be done between the second quarter and full moon. Sunday planting is thought not to succeed, since it is ruled by the sun and considered dry and barren. Planting in the sign of Cancer, which is the most fruitful of all the Zodiac, has proved most successful for me, especially in rooting leaves. It results in a quick and heavy root system. I then transplant in the sign of Libra for flower production.

- TO WATER -

Lift planter and pour water into reservoir

(base)

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(PAT. PEND.)

Wick-Fed, Self-Watering, Self-Aerating

for your

AFRICAN VIOLETS

All we ask is that you purchase one of our WICK PLANTERS and try one of your choice plants in it. After that we feel the planter itself will so convince you of its worth that you will not be satisfied until you have one for each of your African Violet plants.

The Kellems Wick Planter is made from fine Ceramic materials, is designed to look well in the better parts of your home and is based on scientific principles to grow exceptionally fine plants.

Ask your favorite Flower Store to show you the Kellems Planters. If he doesn't stock them at present, he can order them for you from our factory listed below.

KELLEMS—PASADENA

2573 BERSA ST. • PASADENA 8, CALIF.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

NEIL C. MILLER

PART I.

The following applications have been received, or have been accepted, during the period January 1 to April 1, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

Diana 7-11-49	Mrs. Harry M. Godfrey, 425 E. Plymouth St., Long Beach 5, Cal.
Tex-Ann 1-6-51	Mr. V. V. Waite, 4430 Abbott Avenue, Dallas 5, Texas
Sea Queen 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Violette Baby Doll 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Violette Bronze Baby 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Violette Pixie 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Bronze Queen 1-9-51	Mrs. F. W. Gammell, 2415 Des Moines St., Des Moines 16, Iowa
Rosette Red 1-9-51	Mrs. F. W. Gammell, 2415 Des Moines St., Des Moines 16, Iowa
Sweetheart 1-15-51	Mrs. William Rodda, Box 6, Ossian, Indiana
Red Duke 1-15-51	Mrs. William Rodda, Box 6 Ossian, Indiana
Marmaduke 1-15-51	Mrs. William Rodda, Box 6 Ossian, Indiana
Baby Girl Spoon 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Double Doris 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Evening Star 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Fuchsia Spoon 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Mulberry Girl 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Hope 1-19-51	Mrs. Pauline Bradley, 309 So. Main St., Maryville, Mo.
Lady Bette 1-19-51	Mrs. Pauline Bradley, 309 So. Main St., Maryville, Mo.
Orchid Compacta 2-1-51	Mrs. Lela Reichert, 3114 Charles St., Omaha, Nebraska
Charro 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Debutante 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Jinaro 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Swirling Girl 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Beauty Girl 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Junette 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Sunset Lane 3-16-51	Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector, P. O. Box 94, San Pedro, Cal.
Fontana 3-16-51	Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector, P. O. Box 94, San Pedro, Cal.
Thunderhead 3-9-51	Mrs. Margaret Travis, 306 Old State Road, Knoxville 15, Tenn.
Queen Of Hearts 3-26-51	Mrs. Lulu Hastings, R.R. 1, Florence, Indiana
Flamingo Girl 3-26-51	Mrs. Lulu Hastings, R.R. 1, Florence, Indiana

PART II.

First, let's get a couple ladies back home. The printer got two lines of type traded in the March Report and thereby did the quickest moving job on record. The applications concerned, and the ladies who can now rejoin their families, are:

Salem Maiden 11-27-50	Mrs. Jessie M. Lewis, 323 Morrison Avenue, Salem, N. J.
Joel's Delight 12-19-50	Mrs. Ted Hanusa 34 Orchard Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa

The most commonly occuring error in applying for Registration is that application is being made on first generation seedlings. First generation seedlings are not registerable as such because they have not been "thoroughly tested through propagation by leaf cutting" as required by Section 18 of the Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration.The minimum number of leaf propagations (generations) needs to be further defined, but it can't be less than one, so a seedling must have gone through at least one vegetative propagation before an application can be made upon it.

The same rule also applies to plants developed by any other process.

The most frequent criticism of the Registration procedure, and a criticism which is unquestionably justified, is that no plant descriptions have been published in the past, that only names have been given. Steps are being taken to correct this situation. All applicants are now required to furnish a brief written description of each plant, in addition to the formalized recital of characteristics on the Application blank. These descriptions are not botanical, rather they are "violet-talk" descriptions such as would be given a friend in telling what a plant is like, what known plants resemble it most closely, and in what ways it is superior. Thus the basis on which the plant is considered superior and worthy of registration is clearly expressed. These descriptions, furnished by the applicants, will be published with as little editing as possible. In this way wider comparison can be made on the claims.

NAME RESERVATION

A function of the Registration Committee which has been inadequately publicised, and which has consequently been little used, is that of Name Reservation. Upon application, and verification of no-conflict from the Master File of Varieties, a name can be reserved for the sole use of the applicant. A plant to which the name is to be applied must be in existence when the reservation is made. Reservation is for a period of two years, unless made permanent earlier by Registration, but can be renewed for a second two year period if the plant still shows promise but is not yet ready to be registered.

Name Registration is meant to fill an obvious gap in the Registration practice which can be best expressed by the question "What can be done with a promising plant except give it a name?" At present the only thing to do is to tack on a propagation number, or give it some identification tag (like Mary's Fluted Seedling), or join together such characteristic features as Red Spoon Girl, etc. All these practices frequently cause difficulties because all identifications so applied tend to settle away as names and to become established as such so that actually choosing a name later for Registration becomes difficult or in itself starts one variety off with two or more names.

Name Reservation gives the plant developer an opportunity to refer to the plant by one name and one name only as it is taken through its proving vegetative propagations and as comparisons are made concerning it.

A name reservation can be relinquished whenever the reservee decides to do so, as for instance, when it appears evident that the plant is not superior, and is not worth further development.

A list of names reserved (and relinquished) will be a part of each Registration Report in the future. Names of the persons making the reservations will not be published, as no useful function would be performed thereby.

It should be noted that Name Reservation does not in any way indicate that the Society endorses the plant either as a distinct variety, or as an improvement over an existing variety. It simply provides for the use, during the propagation-testing period, of a name which can later be registered if the plant itself proves to be registerable.

The amount of correspondence expressing opinion on plants on which applications have been received has increased nicely since the March Report, calling attention to the need for such expression of opinion, was published. Keep it up.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

Deadline for Sept. Club News July 1st

NEW CLUB ORGANIZED

The T, e, oga African Violet Club was organized January 12, 1951, at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. A. W. Truesdale, East Athens, Pa. Constitution and by-laws were drawn up and adopted. The following officers were elected for a term of one year:

President,	Mrs. Ray Nobles
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. L. Duggan
Secy.,	Mrs. A. W. Truesdale
Treasurer,	Mrs. Gladys DePuis

At present there are fifteen members of the club, eleven of whom are members of the National Society. The name T, e, oga is an Indian name meaning two rivers. The Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers join at T, e, oga Point. There are three towns joined together, Waverly, Sayre, and Athens, with Towanda eighteen miles below on the river. Members from all these cities belong to this club.

Meetings are held once a month in the members' homes, with an open meeting held at regular intervals for non-members to assist them with their problems

SPRINGFIELD PENNA.

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, elected the following officers for the year 1951:

President,	Mrs. Howard Morris
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ralph G. Frye
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. James W. Craig
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Daniel J. Grew
Treasurer,	Mrs. Philip W. Filing

At the January meeting, Mrs. Donald Taber gave a most interesting talk on "Soil Formula". After an exchange of African violet leaves to be used as test plants one year from now, the members received their 1951 year books.

MINNEAPOLIS CLUB

Just two years ago, the first Minneapolis African Violet Club (Blue Boy Chapter) was organized with a limited membership of ten members. So many requests for membership were received and could not be accepted, it was decided to file the names and try to get other clubs started in various parts of the city. At this date, there are fourteen other clubs in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the suburbs. Many more applicants are waiting for other clubs to form or to fill vacancies in those already started.

At a meeting held in January, representatives of all these clubs met to form an executive board. The purpose of this is to enable the clubs to work together more closely on planned projects and to help each other in various ways with suggestions and ideas for promoting interest in African violets.

Two projects are being worked on at this time. Two years ago, when the club was just started, the first African violet show was held and proved successful. It is now planned to hold the second non-competitive show in early Spring.

The second project they hope to work out is the hospital and shut-in plan. Although this is already being carried on by some of the clubs, the aim is to visit rest homes, homes for the aged and some hospitals, and furnish African violet plants, leaves, and cultural matter to patients who want plants and are able to care for them. The patients visited have been very happy and enthusiastic and have made those who helped feel the effort is well worthwhile.

During the past year, two joint meetings have been held with special programs, one of which was a discussion of many original and unusual ideas for using African violets in home arrangements.

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY

On Thursday, January 4, 1951, ten members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. met at the home of Mrs. Rose Ebenfuhrer to form a Philadelphia branch. Officers were elected, and it was decided to hold meetings the first Thursday of each month.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. Stanley Nelson
Secretary,	Mrs. Rose Ebenfuhrer
Treasurer,	Miss Czarina Hall

JACKSON, MICH.

On November 15, 1950, a group of violet lovers met at the home of Mrs. R. S. Preston with the Regional Councilor, Mrs. Phyllis Ferrall, to form a violet club. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. R. S. Preston
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. R. Clemet
Secretary,	Mrs. D. L. Bowers
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. B. Baker

CHICAGO, ILL.

The Elite Chapter of the First African Violet Society of Chicago was organized on March 9, 1951. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. R. Trendler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. Erwin
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. P. Gellinger
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. L. Cooper
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. L. MacKenzie
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. J. Miller
Reporter,	Mrs. H. Hiltz

Mrs. Mary Mayer opened the meeting by introducing Mrs. Magill, Regional Chairman, who conducted the first meeting of the newly formed club. Membership will be limited to twenty-four members. Meetings will be held on the second Friday of each month at 1:30 p. m. for dessert luncheon in the homes of the members.

SACRAMENTO, CAL.

A new society was recently formed at Sacramento, California, by Mrs. George Mac Clanahan and Mrs. Elizabeth Stobbins, which will be known officially as the Sacramento Saintpaulia Society. The regular meeting date is the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p. m. at the Garden Center. Mrs. Hugo Hall was elected president.

OAK RIDGE, TENN.

The recently organized Neptune section of the Oak Ridge African Violet Society announces the election of the following officers:

Chairman,	Mrs. Porter Orr, Jr.
Co-Chairman,	Mrs. John Hooper, Jr.
Secretary,	Mrs. George Kuipers
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Coston

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Metropolitan African Violet Society of Washington, D. C., announces the installation of their new officers for 1951 as follows:

President,	Mrs. Edith Hoy
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Eunice Toms
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. D. G. Clever
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. DeForrest Baker
Treasurer,	Mrs. Eunice Mercer

The new officers are planning what promises to be an interesting program for the year. There will be talks and demonstrations by members and non-members on various phases of African violet culture and arrangement. There will be seedlings to be well started and then distributed among the members, grown and later compared. There are plans for a spring show. A membership drive will be launched, from which new friends as well as new members will be realized.

The members of the Metropolitan African Violet Club added interest and variety to their show experiences by accepting the invitation of the National Capital Canary Club to join them in staging a fall show of birds and saintpaulias. The combination of the many beautiful birds and the violets made an extremely interesting show, and attracted many more people than either the birds or the violets alone.

The exhibit plants were lovely and the judges had to look carefully to pick their winners. Mrs. Martha Husted headed the list for the most blue ribbons. and Mrs. A. N. Carter for the most red ribbons.

The violet exhibit was located near the center of the hall, well lighted and surrounded by birds -- both a colorful and a tuneful setting. In addition to the show plants, there was a complete educational exhibit with an attendant to answer the many questions. Near the entrance to the hall the members held a plant sale, which attracted a gratifying amount of interest from the visitors.

All in all, it was felt that this combination show was an interesting variation and a great success, as well as lots of fun, (and work too, of course,) for all the members.

NEW JERSEY CLUB

In April, 1950, the Glouchester County African Violet Society was organized. Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. J. Wilmer Zee
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. O. W. Richman
Secretary,	Mrs. Herman Wagner
Treasurer,	Mrs. Robert Kinkead

At present there are twelve members in the club.

AURORA, ILL.

The following officers, elected recently by the Admiral African Violet Society of Aurora, Illinois, were installed at a meeting at the home of Miss Eda Staffeldt:

President, Mrs. Mark Livingston
Vice-Pres., Mrs. E. G. Magill
Secretary, Mrs. Alfred Weingartner
Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Travis
Historian, Mrs. Harry Weller
Librarian, Mrs. Ralph Pulver
Ways and Means, Mrs. Robert Brown
Program,
Mrs. E. G. Magill Mrs. Samuel Rowe

Mrs. Walter read a poem, "The Birth of the Saintpaulia" by Charlene Kibbling. Mrs. Magill talked on "Sports and Mutations". Each member who had a perfect attendance record for the past year was presented with a violet plant.

Mrs. Magill entertained the Admiral African Violet Society at a luncheon meeting and Christmas party at her home. The table was decorated with a sleigh and Santa. Soft music was played by a music box concealed in the sleigh. Streamers led from the sleigh to place cards which were African violets.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, a short business meeting was held. Mrs. Magill showed slides of violet plants. Mrs. Lawrence Davis won an award for guessing the most names of the violets shown.

McKEESPORT, PA.

The first birthday anniversary of the McKeesport African Violet Society was marked with a luncheon meeting held November 2, 1950, in the Penn McKee Hotel. Arrangements for the affair were made by Mrs. C. A. Nelson and her aides, Mrs. Walter Seastedt and Mrs. T. J. Matthews, who made the favors for the event, miniature broad-brimmed hats in African violet colors.

Toastmistress was Mrs. Nelson. Three readings were given by a guest speaker from Wilmerding. The white anniversary cake was decorated in the colors of the African violets and formed the centerpiece for the speakers' table. Other tables were appointed with African violet plants. Corsages were presented to Mrs. W. B. Renshaw, president and Mrs. R. L. Fait, past president and founder of the club.

The invocation was given by Mrs. A. E. Rojohn. Mrs. Renshaw commended the committee for the luncheon and spoke of the progress made in a year of work by the society. Mrs. Fait briefly reviewed the history of the club, speaking of the time she acquired her first African violet plant and continuing with her discovery of others in the community interested in the plant and of the eventual organization of the McKeesport Society. The original club of thirteen members has now grown to a total membership of thirty.

Because of the success of the first violet show held on May 26, 1950, at the Penn McKee Hotel, another show is planned for the current year.

TRENTON PLANS SHOW

The African Violet Society of Trenton, New Jersey formerly the African Violet Society of New Jersey is preparing to stage a fall show in the Trenton War Memorial Building in Trenton, N. J. on October 4th from 2:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M. and on October 5th from 10:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.
There will be 8 classes and all flower clubs are extended a cordial invitation to show their violets. Non-members will have four classes open for their exhibits. For information contact the show chairman, Edgar Harris, State Highway No. 25, Burlington, New Jersey.

JUNCTION CITY CLUB

The first meeting of the Junction City, Kansas African Violet Club was held April 9th at the home of the newly elected president. Officers for the coming year are:

President, Mrs. E. D. Hammond
Vice-Pres., Albert More
Secy-Treas., Mrs. Raymond Delgardo

WANT EXTRA GROWTH AND VIGOR?

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D-Vista Gardens, Salem, Oregon, says: "Results have been excellent. The violets took on fine color and the blooms have been large."

Send $1.00 for trial pint, postage prepaid.

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San Francisco, California

Hospital African Violet Club

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Most persons who do gardening seldom realize the social and therapeutic benefits they experience from working in the soil. Nevertheless, the happy fact is that gardening has millions of devotees and, because of this, is one of the greatest means of establishing new relationships with other people. Herein lies its social advantage. The simple fact that a person works with his hands, and in so doing assists Mother Nature to carry out her work, serves as a restful and satisfying emotional experience. Herein lies the therapeutic benefit of this activity.

Both of these factors are carefully considered in the planning and execution of our hospital Special Services rehabilitation program. Establishing new relationships and providing new satisfying experiences are two of the techniques most used in the treatment of emotionally disturbed people —especially those who are having difficulty in making normal and satisfying social adjustments.

Through the process of making a few minor adaptations to fit a particular and personal situation and by actually applying these adaptations to a small gardening program, we at this hospital have developed an interesting African Violet gardening project. This gardening project serves as another modality in our efforts to help with the social readjustment of some of our mentally ill patients. Today it is rather common knowledge that mentally ill patients need to experience satisfactions; also, that we should make every effort to help these patients maintain contact with reality. Gardening as a hobby is especially suited to provide these mentally sick patients with the opportunity to enjoy both of these experiences. The members of the American Women's Voluntary Services, who sponsor and operate the African Violet Club, see to it that these experiences are realized by the patients interested in this type of hobby.

Early in 1950, the American Women's Voluntary Services started an African Violet Club at this hospital. The enthusiasm and interest in this Club was immediate and several patients demonstrated their interest and knowledge in this highly fascinating side of gardening. This is not a large project, for like most hobby activities the membership is small and select. From five to eight patients maintain a continuing interest in the program. However, other patients are interested in gardening too, and many of them plant and maintain vegetable and flower gardens on their own.

In all, about 75 patients are interested in some form of gardening and are deriving a great amount of personal satisfaction from their work. The patient does this work for the pleasure his own creation affords him, and if he regains his self respect and confidence through gardening, which is sometimes the case, the hobby establishes itself as a helpful and therapeutic modality.

The small talk, the interpersonal relationships, the creative joy, and many other so-called intangibles—all play their respective parts in this rehabilitation program for the patient. But the African Violet Club, in this case, establishes itself as the vehicle which brings these other factors together so that the necessary rehabilitative interaction can take place.

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ORCHID BI-GIRL Fine white blossom with an orchid border. A dainty, lady-like violet with an aristocratic mien. Blossoms are carried well above girl type foliage. $2.25

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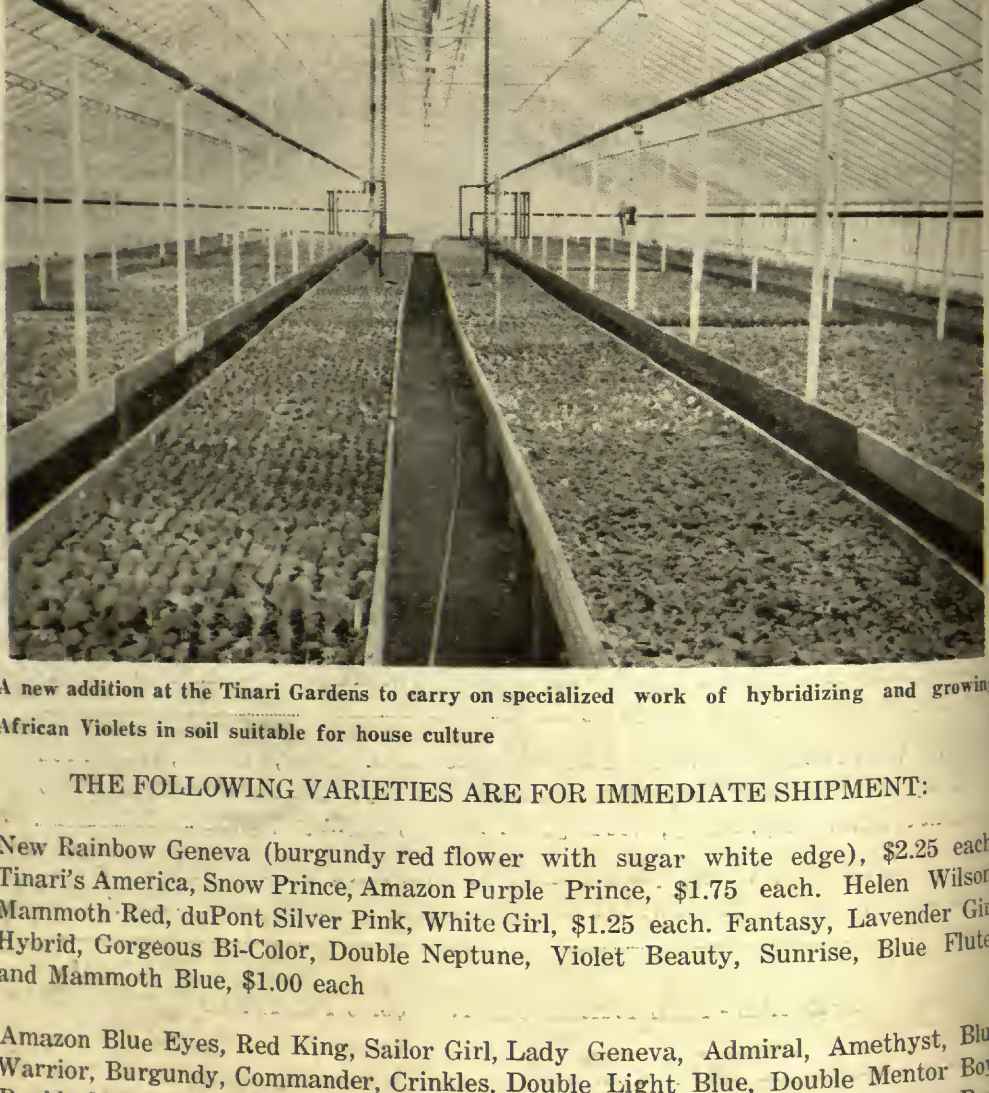

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